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JUSTICE

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MODERATION



GEORGIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LEGISLATIVE — *REPORT* — 2014 Session

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MARTHA R. WIGTON
DIRECTOR

DATE: MAY 5, 2014

TO: MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: MARTHA WIGTON, DIRECTOR

RE: 2014 SESSION REPORT

The following report compiles all bills passed during the 2014 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. The report also includes non-privileged resolutions and resolutions creating House or joint study committees. The listed legislation will become effective July 1, 2014 or became effective upon signature of the governor; local Acts become effective upon the governor's approval unless a different effective date is specified in the Act. Ten bills were vetoed, and those vetoes are noted in red.

We hope this summary provides you and your constituents with useful, accessible information for easy reference. It will be posted on the HBRO website under the 'News and Highlights' tab:

<http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/en-US/newsandhighlights.aspx>

As always, if you require any additional information regarding legislation or budget issues, please call our office at 404-656-5050 and our staff will be available to assist you.

To that end, please note the following staff members who contributed to the content of this report:

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2014 SESSION REPORT

HB 60

Firearms; certain laws regarding carrying and possession by retired judges; provide exemption

Rep. Doug Holt of the 112th

House Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 60 is an Act that shall be known and may be cited as the 'Safe Carry Protection Act'.

Section 1-2 prohibits a condition of tenancy in public housing to require any prohibition or restriction of any lawful possession of a firearm within an individual dwelling. Section 1-2A makes it unlawful to hunt wildlife with any weapon, except that longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, and compound bows may be used for small game, feral hogs, or big game. During primitive hunts or primitive weapons seasons, longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, compound bows, muzzleloading firearms of .44 caliber or larger, and muzzleloading shotguns of 20 gauge or larger loaded with single shot may be used. Youth less than 16 years of age are allowed to hunt deer with any firearm legal for hunting, and further stipulations for weapons and firearms used for hunting deer, bear, small game, turkey, alligators, and feral hogs are provided. There are no firearms restrictions for taking nongame animals or nongame birds. Silencers or suppressors may be used for hunting on a private property with permission of the property owner.

Section 1-4 provides for the right to possess a handgun or long gun in any private passenger motor vehicle by stating that the property owner has the right to exclude or eject a person who is in possession of a weapon or long gun on their private property.

Section 1-5 states a person shall be guilty of carrying a weapon or long gun in an unauthorized location and punished for a misdemeanor when he or she carries in a government building, unless the building is open for business and ingress into the building is not restricted or screened by security personnel. Other restricted areas include a courthouse, jail, mental health facility, premises of a nuclear power facility, and in a place of worship, unless the authority of that place of worship permits the carrying of weapons or long guns.

Section 1-6 makes it unlawful for any person to carry, possess, or have under one's control any weapon or explosive compound within a school safety zone, at a school function, or on transportation furnished by a school. Persons exempted from these provisions are provided, including those who have been authorized in writing by a private, public, secondary or post-secondary school.

Section 1-7 provides for the application for a weapons carry license or a renewal license, to include: licensing exceptions including for those who are at least 18 years of age; proof of training in the armed forces; proof of active service in the armed forces; and stipulations for determining a person's mental health and criminal history. The bill provides for fingerprinting completed by the appropriate law enforcement agency or any vendor approved by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; investigation of a weapons carry license applicant; and the revocation, loss, or damage to a license. State weapons carry licenses issued prior to January 1, 2012 shall be in the format specified by the former provisions of this paragraph as they existed on June 30, 2013. This section includes the penalties for altering or counterfeiting a license; licenses for former law enforcement officers; temporary renewal licenses; denied license appeals; a prohibition against any database of information regarding persons issued weapons carry licenses; and the verification process.

Section 1-8 adds state and federal judges; judges of probate, juvenile, and magistrate courts; and full-time and permanent part-time judges of municipal and city courts have carry privileges according to Code Sections 16-11-126 through 16-11-127.2.

Section 1-9 allows for a local board of education to permit certain personnel to possess/carry weapons in a school safety zone, at a school function and on a school bus, but the board policy shall provide for training, an approved list of weapons, and a mandatory method of securing weapons. No person shall enter the restricted access area of a commercial service airport, in or beyond the airport security screening checkpoint, knowingly possessing or knowingly having under his or her control a weapon or long gun. A non-licensed holder who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, while a licensed holder who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor unless that license holder immediately leaves the restricted access area upon notification that he or she is in possession of a weapon. This section also provides for access to a commercial service airport for a person possessing a weapon or a long gun.

Section 1-10 states that every license holder must have his or her valid weapons carry license in their immediate possession at all times when carrying a weapon; if they are exempt from having to have a license, they must have proof of that exemption.

Section 1-11 states that only the General Assembly shall regulate gun shows, weapons dealers, weapon components dealers, as well as the possession, ownership, sale, and purchase of firearms, weapons or their components.

Section 1-12 adds a new Code section which states that defense of self or others, as it relates to mental capacity and is provided for under Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 16, shall be an absolute defense to any violation that is related.

Section 1-13, in regard to the disclosure and dissemination of criminal records and other information to private persons and businesses including the Federal Bureau of Investigation in conjunction with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, requires the records of the Georgia Crime Information Center to include whether a person has been involuntarily hospitalized, adjudicated mentally incompetent to stand trial, or found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Part 2 of HB 60, in honor of Representative Bobby Franklin, states that no officials or employees of the state, members of the National Guard, or those acting during or pursuant to a declared state of emergency shall seize, authorize the seizure, nor prohibit the possession of any firearm, ammunition, or component thereof. The bill also outlines the emergency powers of the governor in relation to the sale, dispensing, and transportation of alcoholic beverages, explosives, or combustibles.

Part 3 of HB 60 states that any person who commits the offenses of aggravated assault or aggravated battery upon a student or teacher or school personnel shall be punished by imprisonment for no less than five but no more than 20 years. This legislation also defines what constitutes contributing to the delinquency, unruliness, or deprivation of a minor as knowingly and willfully providing a weapon to a minor; and loitering upon school premises. The issues that school safety plans should address are provided for in Part 3. Under HB 60, a school board is given the authority to grant a permit to carry a firearm to any license holder who meets the qualifications and training requirements established in the Code.

HB 128

Georgia Downtown Renaissance Investment Tax Credit Act; enact

**Rep. Allen Peake of the 141st
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation provides for a new revolving fund to be titled the "Georgia Downtown Renaissance Fund" and which will be housed at the Department of Community Affairs. The fund is to help cities with planning and revitalization of downtown areas through technical assistance and low interest loans. The fund is subject to appropriations and is capped at no more than \$20 million over four fiscal years.

HB 135

Municipalities; ante litem notice; the amount of damages sought; provide

**Rep. Andrew Welch of the 110th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 135 requires that ante litem notices specify the amount of damages sought against a municipal corporation and be served to the mayor or to the chairperson of the city council or commission either personally, by certified mail, or by statutory overnight delivery. The amount of damages specified constitutes a settlement offer, but is not binding on the claimant in subsequent litigation if the municipal corporation does not settle.

HB 176

Mobile Broadband Infrastructure Leads to Development (BILD) Act; enact

**Rep. Don Parsons of the 44th
House Committee on Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 176 is known as the 'Mobile Broadband Infrastructure Leads to Development (BILD) Act.' The legislation will allow previously approved wireless support structures and wireless facilities to be modified or collocated without additional zoning or land use review beyond that which is typically required by the local governing authority for the issuance of building or electrical permits, as long as the proposed modifications do not substantially change the size of the existing structures. Limitations on the time allowed for review of new wireless facilities and fees charged for such by local governing authorities are outlined as well.

HB 215

Superior courts; filings in the clerk's office; change provisions

**Rep. Tommy Benton of the 31st
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 215 allows for changes in office hours in a superior court clerk's office with less than two employees. It requires clerks to note the date and time of receipt of documents or instruments accepted for filing on the document or instrument itself, and to refuse recordation filings that are not accompanied by the appropriate fees.

HB 229

Insurance; removing the insurer annual publication requirement; provide

**Rep. Sam Teasley of the 37th
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 229 removes the annual financial statement publication requirement for insurance companies and provides that the Commissioner of Insurance shall provide on the department's website a financial summary position of each insurer.

HB 246

**Georgia World Congress Center Authority; benefit programs to its officers, employees, and other agents;
provide**

**Rep. Rich Golick of the 40th
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 246 gives the Georgia World Congress Center Authority the power to provide flexible benefits to its officers and employees. This bill is necessary due to the fact they no longer participate in state employee benefit programs.

HB 251

Tobacco; sale of alternative nicotine products or components to minors; prohibit

**Rep. Alan Powell of the 32nd
House Committee on Juvenile Justice**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 251 prohibits the sale of electronic cigarettes and nicotine gum, patches, or other alternative nicotine products to persons under the age of 18.

HB 264

Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965; extensively revise

**Rep. Mike Jacobs of the 80th
House Committee on Transportation**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 264 is an extensive rewrite of the 'Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965,' or the 'MARTA Act.' In Section 1 of the bill, the restructuring of the Board of Directors of the authority and the number of years constituting a term are provided for an effective date of January 1, 2017. Section 3 states that a majority vote of the board will determine: the routes, types of construction, equipment, and facilities that will be operated by the Authority; the scheduled services to be made available to the public; and the amounts to be charged. Section 4 provides for the selling of bonds by the authority through public competitive bidding or through negotiations. Section 5 states the power of eminent domain does not lay with the authority but with the city or county governing body. Further, this legislation allows the authority to make provisions for financial accounting and controls, as well as audits and reports to the board. The reports shall go to the members of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Overview Committee and be posted on the website of the authority. The authority is exempt from any regulation by the Public Service Commission.

HB 265

Mass transportation; suspension of restrictions on the use of annual proceeds from sales and use taxes by public transit authorities; repeal provisions

**Rep. Mike Jacobs of the 80th
House Committee on Transportation**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 265 repeals provisions relating to the suspension of restrictions on the use of annual proceeds from sales and use taxes by public transit authorities. It also repeals provisions relating to the board of directors for the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. It extends the date for an exemption to the local sales and use tax for a county that levied a tax for the purposes of a metropolitan area system of public transportation to 2016.

HB 271

Individual's criminal history record information; revise definitions

**Rep. Jay Neal of the 2nd
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 271 creates the offense of murder in the second degree. Second degree murder occurs when a person, irrespective of malice, causes the death of another human being while committing cruelty to children in the second degree. The punishment for conviction of second degree murder is imprisonment for 10 to 30 years. With respect to Title 17, it amends the establishment of a cash escrow account dealing with bonds. For a professional bonding company that has been operating in a county for less than 18 months, the terms and conditions are determined by the sheriff. For those that have operated continuously for 18 months or longer, any such value in the account shall not exceed 10 percent of the current outstanding liability. It also restricts a professional bonding company from purchasing an insurance policy instead of establishing an account with value; however, those companies which have been using an insurance policy as collateral can continue to do so at the discretion of the sheriff.

HB 291

State Board of Accountancy; independent state agency attached to Secretary of State for administrative purposes only; provide

**Rep. David Knight of the 130th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 291 transfers the State Board of Accountancy from being administratively attached to the Secretary of State to being a division within the State Accounting Office. It updates terminology and practices governing public accountancy, and it provides for the powers and duties of the board. The bill authorizes the state accounting officer to employ an executive director and provides for the powers and duties of such executive director.

HB 292

Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia; maximum average final monthly compensation calculated in determining benefits; establish

**Rep. Paul Battles of the 15th
House Committee on Retirement**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 292 revises the methodology for computing the average final monthly compensation used to determine benefits by establishing a monthly maximum based on county population for members of the Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia. Also, this bill changes the amount members would pay to 3.42 percent of the maximum average final monthly compensation amounts. This is a fiscal retirement bill with no cost to the state.

HB 310

Elections; ethics in government; revise definitions; provisions

**Rep. Joe Wilkinson of the 52nd
House Committee on Ethics**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill allows for nonpartisan election filings for candidacy to take place eleven weeks before the election and partisan election filings to take place thirty-five weeks before the election. Primaries are to be held twenty-four weeks before the November elections. Run-offs after a primary will take place nine weeks after that primary.

HB 348

Income tax credit; purchasers of alternative fuel vehicles; provide

**Rep. Don Parsons of the 44th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation creates a two-year tax credit to purchase heavy- and medium-duty alternative fuel vehicles. Medium-duty vehicles that qualify would be eligible for 20 percent of the vehicle cost up to \$12,000 and qualifying heavy-duty vehicles would be eligible for 20 percent of the vehicle cost up to \$20,000. Each taxpayer is capped at a maximum allowable credit of up to \$250,000 per year with a total program cap of \$2.5 million per year.

HB 375

Insurance; cancellations under certain circumstances relating to policy terms that permit an audit or rate investigation and noncompliance by insured; provide

**Rep. Bruce Williamson of the 115th
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 375 provides that if the terms of a business insurance policy permit an audit or rate investigation and the insured fails to submit to or allow an audit or rate investigation for the current or most recently expired term, the insurer may, after notification of potential cancellation, send written notice to the insured at least ten days prior to the effective date of cancellation in lieu of the number of days' notice otherwise required by law. No cancellation notice shall be mailed within 20 days of the first documented effort to notify the policyholder of potential cancellation.

HB 399

Ad valorem tax; types of interests in real property may be subject to taxation; clarify

**Rep. David Knight of the 130th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 399 amends § 6-3-21 to clarify that holders of usufructs in municipally owned airports shall not be subject to ad valorem taxation by the county government in which the municipally owned airport is located.

HB 405

Elementary and secondary education; members of governing boards of nonprofit organizations which are charter petitioners and charter schools to participate in governance training; require

**Rep. Rahn Mayo of the 84th
House Committee on Education**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 405 requires members of governing boards of nonprofit organizations which are charter petitioners, charter schools, and state charter schools to participate in governance training. This bill also requires local school systems to provide each freshman, sophomore, and junior their grade point average calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission for HOPE eligibility.

HB 438

Court-referred alternative dispute resolution programs; legal costs; increase maximum amount of additional cost

**Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 438 increases the amount trial courts may charge per civil action to fund court-connected or court-referred alternative dispute resolution programs. The fee cap is raised from \$7.50 to \$10.

HB 449

Agency records disclosure; change certain provisions relating to 9-1-1 calls

**Rep. Micah Gravley of the 67th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 449 exempts from public disclosure agency records of 9-1-1 telephone calls which contain cries in extremis or speech in distress of a caller who died during the call, or the speech or cries of a person who was a minor at the time of the call.

The records need not be turned over except to: a representative of a deceased caller's estate; a parent or legal guardian of a minor caller; the accused in a criminal case where the call is believed to be relevant to criminal proceedings; a party to a civil action where the call is believed to be relevant to the civil action; an attorney for any person identified above; or an attorney for a person who may pursue a civil action when the attorney believes the call to be relevant to the potential civil action.

HB 459

Speed restrictions; impeding traffic flow and minimum speed in left-hand lanes; modify provisions

**Rep. Bill Hitchens of the 161st
House Committee on Motor Vehicles**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 459 clarifies the law as it relates to driving in the passing lane of a controlled-access highway. It provides that a driver in the passing lane (far left lane) must exit the lane when a car is approaching from behind at a higher rate of speed. There are exceptions enumerated in the bill for inclement weather, heavy traffic, exiting the highway or turning left, toll booths, avoiding emergency vehicles, and avoiding highway maintenance or construction sites.

HB 460

Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund; no person under a sentence of confinement shall be eligible for membership; provide

**Rep. Tom Weldon of the 3rd
House Committee on Retirement**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 460 revises eligibility for membership in the Class Nine Fire Department Pension Fund to exclude membership to persons who are incarcerated. Also, if they are a member of the fund they will not earn creditable service while they are incarcerated. This is a fiscal retirement bill with no cost to the state.

HB 477

Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; Georgia Judicial Retirement System; transfer service credit

**Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st
House Committee on Retirement**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 477 adds language that any member of the Judicial Retirement System (JRS) who has not withdrawn their benefits can transfer them to the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and must notify the board of trustees of each retirement system. If a member of JRS has withdrawn their retirement contributions, they may obtain creditable service by paying ERS an amount the member desires. ERS will only credit the member with the number of years of creditable service warranted by the amount the member desired to pay without creating any liability to JRS. No member will be granted creditable service in excess of the service they were credited under JRS. This is a fiscal retirement bill that will cost the state \$5,000 per year for 20 years to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability.

HB 490

Teacher health insurance plans; contract with local employers to librarians and other personnel employed by regional and county libraries; expand board authorization

**Rep. Timothy Barr of the 103rd
House Committee on Higher Education**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill allows the local board to contract with local employers for the inclusion of regional and county library employees with any health insurance plan allowed under subpart 2 of Article 17 in Title 20. This only includes library employees who work 30 hours or more per week.

HB 494

Mass transportation; installation of safety markers on utility lines to provide adequate visual warning in use of private airstrips; provide

**Rep. Andrew Welch of the 110th
House Committee on Transportation**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 494 defines an appurtenant utility line, an installation fee schedule, a private airstrip, and a safety marker and allows any owner of a private airstrip to make a written notice to an owner of an appurtenant utility line to request the installation of safety markers for a fee of \$100. This legislation also gives the Department of Transportation the authority to create the fee schedule for installation, as well as the rules and regulations necessary to implement this new section.

HB 495

State Properties Code; conveyance of state property and consideration of conveyances by General Assembly; modify provisions

**Rep. Calvin Hill of the 22nd
House Committee on State Properties**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 495 amends Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 50 of O.C.G.A relating to the State Properties Code. This bill defines "conveyance" as "the sale or other disposition of real property including a transfer of fee simple title, lease, and easement" and the definition of "property" is expanded to include "any real property interest titled in the name of the state."

This legislation provides that the State Properties Commission shall have the power and duty to approve a conveyance of state property valued at \$500,000 or less. The commission also has the power and duty to have a report prepared, which will allow the commission to arrive at a fair valuation of all properties to be conveyed. If the property is to be conveyed to a private entity, the report shall include either an opinion of the value or one written appraisal of the property. If the value of the property to be conveyed is in excess of \$100,000, a second written appraisal shall be required. Conveyances initiated prior to regular session of the General Assembly may be contained in a resolution to be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and to the chairpersons of the House and Senate standing committees that regularly consider proposed legislation related to state property. The standing committees

that regularly consider matters related to state property in the Senate and House of Representatives may meet outside of the regular legislative session of the General Assembly to consider property conveyance resolutions submitted by the commission. The commission shall give no less than 30 days' prior written notice, by certified mail and e-mail, to the Office of Legislative Counsel, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the chairpersons of the House and Senate standing committees that regularly consider state property related legislation, and all members of the General Assembly whose legislative districts contain all or a portion of the property. If any of these individuals object to the conveyance, they have the power to stop the expedited process and the piece of property will go through the full conveyance process. If approved during a committee meeting, the resolutions shall be filed at the next regular session of the General Assembly and be voted on as any other bill; however, the resolution shall not be assigned to committee or amended.

This legislation also allows the commission to accept sealed bids, as well as best and final offers for any conveyance of property and eliminates the exception allowing the Department of Labor to manage its own space.

HB 511

State employees' health insurance plan; pilot program to provide coverage for bariatric surgical procedures for treatment and management of obesity; provide

**Rep. Katie Dempsey of the 13th
House Committee on Health & Human Services**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 511 creates a two-year pilot program to provide coverage for bariatric surgical procedures for State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) participants. The program is limited to no more than 75 participants.

Eligible SHBP participants must meet criteria established by the department that must include the following:

- 1.) Participation in SHBP's wellness program for at least 12 months.
- 2.) Completion of a health risk assessment.
- 3.) A body mass index of greater than 40 or greater than 35 with one or more co-morbidities.
- 4.) Consent to provide personal and medical information.
- 5.) Non-tobacco user.
- 6.) No other primary group health coverage or primary coverage with Medicare.
- 7.) Must be covered under SHBP for two years immediately prior to the pilot program and must express intent to continue coverage under SHBP for two years following the procedure date.

The bariatric surgical procedures covered in the pilot program are the gastric band, laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy, and Rouen-Y gastric bypass. This legislation creates a panel to review the results and outcomes of the pilot program. The department is required to provide a final report to the General Assembly on the last year of the program.

HB 513

Education; Georgia Medical Center Authority; abolish

**Rep. Penny Houston of the 170th
House Committee on Health & Human Services**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 513 repeals Title 20, Section 15 relating to the Georgia Medical Center Authority. This legislation abolishes the Georgia Medical Center Authority. Any funds, outstanding contracts, or licenses held by the Georgia Medical Center Authority shall be transferred to the Board of Regents of the University System on the effective date of this act.

HB 543

Douglas County; levy an excise tax

**Rep. Micah Gravley of the 67th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize Douglas County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 549

Water pollution; establish water emergency response procedures

Rep. Jon Burns of the 159th

House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment

Final Bill Summary:

This bill creates a new Code section stating that if any substance that endangers the health or property of downstream water users in Georgia is discharged into such waters, it is the duty of the person in charge of the substance to immediately notify the Environmental Protection Division of the discharge's nature and location, and to immediately take all reasonable steps to prevent injury to the health or property of downstream users.

EPD must immediately conduct an initial investigation upon receiving notice made according to this new Code section, or by someone in the public that observes such a situation and determines the criteria described above are satisfied. If EPD determines that the health or property of downstream users is threatened, then it shall as soon as possible, but not more than 24 hours after such determination, notify and consult with Georgia Emergency Management Agency, as well as other appropriate emergency response agencies to determine if it is necessary to prepare and distribute a public notice concerning the threat. Upon EPD's notification, the local emergency management agency or local county health department must prepare and post the appropriate public notice through electronic media and print. The public notice must be located at places where the public regularly uses water or seeks information about such waters. EPD must ensure that immediate corrective action is initiated to the maximum extent practicable and as otherwise authorized to prevent further danger to health and property.

EPD must also establish a protocol, which will be reviewed every five years, for coordinated response to discharges that create emergency situations, and must coordinate with the appropriate emergency response agencies to provide for continual emergency response so as to most efficiently and effectively meet the needs of affected communities. EPD may provide training to state and local emergency response agencies in furtherance of this Code section.

HB 580

Superior Court Clerk's Retirement Fund; provide spousal survivor's benefit

Rep. Tom Weldon of the 3rd

House Committee on Retirement

Final Bill Summary:

HB 580 revises the calculation of spousal benefits for the Superior Court Clerks' Retirement Fund. Language was added that allows a member to revoke the election of spousal benefits if the member's spouse predeceases the member. This is a fiscal retirement bill with no cost to the state.

HB 601

Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund of Georgia; define certain terms; provisions

Rep. Howard Maxwell of the 17th

House Committee on Retirement

Final Bill Summary:

HB 601 revises O.C.G.A. 47-11-1 relating to the Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Funds of Georgia. This bill adds the definition of "adjusted monthly income" and "adjusted annual income." Also, this bill adds language that makes the cost of living adjustment discretionary, rather than automatic. This is a fiscal retirement bill with no cost to the state.

HB 610

Insurance; licensing and regulation of public adjusters; provide

Rep. Bruce Williamson of the 115th

House Committee on Insurance

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 610 amends the Code as it relates to the definition of "Public Adjusters". The purpose is to ensure that individuals who

receive compensation for investigating, settling, or adjusting a claim on behalf of an insurer or an insured are properly licensed and regulated by the insurance commissioner.

HB 645

Insurance; electronic transmissions of notices and documents from an insurers to a party to an insurance transaction; provisions

**Rep. Matt Dollar of the 45th
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 645 provides for insurers to offer electronic policy processing and information dissemination to their policy holders. It does not allow them to make the program mandatory.

HB 646

Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia; part-time chief magistrates may become members of such fund; provide

**Rep. Barry Fleming of the 121st
House Committee on Retirement**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 646 deletes the "full-time chief magistrate" definition under O.C.G.A. 47-25-20 relating to the Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia. By deleting this definition, all magistrates, including those who are part-time, will be eligible to participate in the fund. This is a fiscal retirement bill with no cost to the state.

HB 655

Brantley County Airport Authority; transfer all assets, property, and legal rights and obligations to Brantley County

**Rep. Chad Nimmer of the 178th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to repeal the Act creating the Brantley County Airport Authority and to transfer all assets, property, and legal rights and obligations of the Authority to Brantley County.

HB 658

Revenue and taxation; repeal Chapter 12 relating to estate tax

**Rep. B.J. Pak of the 108th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 658 removes Code references to the estate tax in O.C.G.A.48-12-1, but it does not affect any tax that was to be collected prior to December 31, 2004.

HB 664

Avalon, City of; provide new charter

**Rep. Dan Gasaway of the 28th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Avalon.

HB 666

Pike County; board of commissioners; change description of districts

Rep. J. Caldwell of the 131st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to reapportion the Pike County Board of Commissioners.

HB 670 - VETO

Trade names; require registration with the clerk of superior court; provisions

Rep. Barry Fleming of the 121st

House Committee on Judiciary

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 670 establishes a state-wide electronic network of trade name registrations, re-registrations, and cancellations filed in Georgia superior courts, to be developed and implemented by the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority (or its designated agent). The bill requires superior court clerks to participate in the network. It also increases fees for registering and reregistering trade names in the electronic network, and creates a fee for cancelling a trade name registration.

HB 697

HOPE; revise amount of grants; equal student's cost of tuition

Rep. Stacey Evans of the 42nd

House Committee on Appropriations

Final Bill Summary:

This bill defines "Zell Miller Grant Scholar" as a student who meets the requirements to receive a HOPE grant and earns at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) at the end of any semester or quarter. Under this bill, if a student is determined to be a Zell Miller Grant Scholar, the student will be awarded the difference between the awarded HOPE amount and the then current academic year standard undergraduate tuition at the institution to be paid, or the exceptional tuition rate amount for those exceptional programs in effect on January 1, 2014.

Zell Miller Grant eligibility will be determined on a semester or quarterly basis and paid for the next semester or quarter in which the student is enrolled. If the student was not eligible to be a Zell Miller Grant Scholar because he or she had no cumulative GPA, then the student will also receive one semester or quarter of retroactive payment.

HB 702

State government; placement of monument on capitol grounds; provide

Rep. Greg Morris of the 156th

House Committee on State Properties

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 702 amends Code Section 50-3, relating to the state flag, seal, and other symbols, by adding a new article to require that a granite monument depicting the Preamble to the Georgia Constitution, a portion of the Declaration of Independence, and the Ten Commandments be placed within the State Capitol Building or grounds. The monument shall be designed, procured, and placed by the Capitol Art Standards Commission and subject to final approval by a monument committee composed of three members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate. The committee shall be abolished upon placement of the monument. Gifts and donations from private individuals, organizations, or foundations shall be used to design and procure the monument.

HB 709

Terrell County; office of coroner; provide nonpartisan elections

**Rep. Gerald Greene of the 151st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for the nonpartisan election of the coroner of Terrell County.

HB 710

Randolph County; office of coroner; provide nonpartisan elections

**Rep. Gerald Greene of the 151st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for the nonpartisan election of the coroner of Randolph County.

HB 711

Clay County; office of coroner; provide nonpartisan elections

**Rep. Gerald Greene of the 151st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for the nonpartisan election of the coroner of Clay County.

HB 714

**Labor; determination of eligibility for unemployment benefits of certain people performing certain services;
provide changes**

**Rep. Mark Hamilton of the 24th
House Committee on Industry and Labor**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 714 amends the law regarding unemployment insurance. It provides that private employees who work in seasonal jobs cannot receive unemployment insurance benefits during breaks in their employment if there is a reasonable expectation that their employment will resume at the end of the break. This law establishes parity with public sector seasonal employees. It becomes effective January 1, 2015.

The bill also includes the language from House Bill 1027, which is the annual Department of Labor bill to align Georgia statute with federal law. Failure to align provisions could result in a loss of \$80 million dollars to the Unemployment Trust Fund.

HB 715

Jekyll Island-State Park Authority; powers and responsibilities; revise

**Rep. Mark Hamilton of the 24th
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill provides definitions for “developed land” and “undeveloped land”. It also states that the Jekyll Island Authority is empowered to convert no more than 1,675 acres of the total land area of Jekyll Island into developed land. The 1,597 acres of Jekyll Island that have been subdivided, leased, or improved according to the 2013 master plan as of January 1, 2014, is deemed as already converted to developed land.

Additionally, the bill sets out the only ways that undeveloped land shall be converted to developed land after July 1, 2014, which are: twelve acres solely for the expansion of the existing campground; forty-six acres solely for public health, safety, or recreation which excludes residential and commercial development; and twenty acres for unrestricted uses. The authority shall not in any way sell or otherwise dispose of any riparian rights, and the Jekyll Island beach areas shall be kept free and open for public use. The portion of the island lying south of 31 degrees, 1 minute, 34 seconds north latitude must be retained as undeveloped area, and the authority shall not enter into, renew, or extend any agreement or otherwise take any action regarding said portion of the island on or after May 30, 2007, except as otherwise provided. Improvements on the said portion of the island made prior to May 30, 2007 shall not require removal. Upon the expiration or termination of any lease of a single-family residence lot on this southern portion of the island, the authority may again lease that lot to the same or another lessee for a single-family or non-commercial purpose, or may set it aside for public use; however, the lot shall not be further subdivided or leased for any multi-family residence or commercial use.

The Jekyll Island 4-H center and soccer complex may continue to be used as such under an extension or renewal of an existing lease or under a new lease. This bill does not prohibit the construction and use of public bicycle trails, public nature trails, or public picnic areas on the southern portion of the island by the authority. This subparagraph shall not be applied to impair the obligation of any valid contract entered into prior to May 30, 2007.

HB 719

Sales and use tax; continuation of joint county municipal tax; provide

**Rep. Kevin Tanner of the 9th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation amends Article 2 of Code Section 48-8, and establishes that all local option sales tax distribution certificates that were filed between June 4, 2010 and October 18, 2013 are valid and will stay in effect until a subsequent distribution certificate is filed with the Department of Revenue.

HB 729 - VETO

Revenue and taxation; manner for determining fair market value of motor vehicles subject to tax; change

**Rep. Tom Rice of the 95th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation clarifies provisions of the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) system that was enacted during the 2012 session. The bill clarifies the definition of the "fair market value of used vehicles" to require that the value used for taxation purposes is based upon the value guide promulgated by the Department of Revenue. Trade-in value will also be based upon the value guide. Additionally, when a lease credit for the TAVT on the trade-in value is established, this can be applied to future vehicle leases. A definition of a Kit-car is added to the TAVT, which sets the valuation at the greater of the retail selling price of the Kit or the valuation established by the department's value guide. Transfers resulting from a divorce order will not trigger a TAVT. The bill adds clarifications to the registration system, such as extending to 45 days after a purchase is made that a new tag must be placed on the vehicle, and an optional extension of such period is allowed as well.

HB 737

Alcoholic beverages; malt beverages produced in private residences to be transported to other locations and consumed by the producer and other individuals; allow

**Rep. Brett Harrell of the 106th
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 737 strikes Code Section 3-3-24.1 relating to the definition of "business establishment primarily engaged in the retail sale of alcoholic beverages in unbroken packages" and the penalty for persons violating this Code section.

HB 737 allows up to 128 ounces of malt beverages produced in a private residence to be transported to an unlicensed location and consumed by the producer, the owner of the location, and any guests present. HB 737 also stipulates that a governing authority must obtain a permit to hold home-brew special events within its jurisdiction.

HB 738

Quitman County; office of coroner; provide nonpartisan elections

**Rep. Gerald Greene of the 151st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for the nonpartisan election of the coroner of Quitman County.

HB 740

Game and fish; full-time military personnel on active duty and dependents be considered residents of state for procuring certain hunting and fishing licenses; provide

**Rep. Kevin Tanner of the 9th
House Committee on Game, Fish, & Parks**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 740 amends Code Section 27-1-2, relating to definitions regarding game and fish, by revising the definition of the term "resident". For the purpose of issuing or procuring noncommercial hunting and fishing licenses, "resident" is revised to include all active duty military personnel and their dependents; however, the residency requirements shall apply for all lifetime licenses, honorary licenses, and the landowner exemption. Also, for military personnel and their dependents, honorary licenses and the landowner exemption shall require a three-month domicile requirement.

HB 741

Water resources; issuance of sludge land application permits; revise certain requirements

**Rep. Kevin Tanner of the 9th
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill revises the requirements related to the issuance of sludge land application permits by adding a subsection stating that the Environmental Protection Division director shall require any applicant to provide written verification that the proposed facility complies with applicable local zoning or land use ordinances, if any. The bill also requires that the public hearings conducted by EPD and the applicant for the permit be held within the jurisdiction of the local governing authority where the proposed sludge land application site is located.

HB 742

Coweta Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide for seventh judge

**Rep. Randy Nix of the 69th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 742 provides for an additional superior court judge in both the Coweta Judicial Circuit and the Waycross Judicial Circuit.

HB 743

Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

**Rep. David Ralston of the 7th
House Committee on Appropriations**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 743 is the Amended FY 2014 state budget. The Amended FY 2014 budget adjusts state funds by \$313.9 million, or 1.57%, for a total of \$20.2 billion for the year ending June 30, 2014. K-12 Education receives the largest percentage of the new funds.

The Amended FY 2014 Appropriations Act, as well as the tracking sheet, is posted on the House Budget and Research Office website:

<http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/en-US/budgetdocuments.aspx>. Budget highlights are also available on the website:

<http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/en-US/newsandhighlights.aspx>.

HB 744

General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

**Rep. David Ralston of the 7th
House Committee on Appropriations**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 744, the FY 2015 budget effective for state spending beginning July 1, 2014, is set by a revenue estimate of \$20.8 billion. This reflects an increase of \$916 million, or 4.6%, over the original FY 2014 budget. Of all new revenue for FY 2015, 72% is budgeted to cover needs in K-12 and higher education, which net \$660.7 million in new funds. Health and Human Services agencies received the next largest increase in new revenue - \$203 million or 22%. The remaining new revenue is spread between public safety and economic development agencies.

The FY 2015 Appropriations Act, as well as the tracking sheet, is posted on the House Budget and Research Office website:

<http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/en-US/budgetdocuments.aspx>. Budget highlights are also available on the website:

<http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/en-US/newsandhighlights.aspx>.

HB 749

Crimes and offenses; crime of cargo theft; provide

**Rep. Geoff Duncan of the 26th
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 749 creates the offense of cargo theft. Cargo theft is the unlawful taking or unlawful appropriation of any vehicle engaged in commercial transportation of cargo or any trailer, semitrailer, container, or associated equipment, which is the property of another with the intention of depriving such person of the property, regardless of the manner in which the property was appropriated. The punishment is determined using the fair market value of the deprived cargo. The sentencing ranges from one to 20 years with associated fines ranging from \$10,000 to \$1 million. Also, the act of modifying the fifth wheel on a towing vehicle with the intent to commit cargo theft is criminalized, with the associated punishment being one to ten years imprisonment and/or a fine ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

HB 750

Banking and finance; exemption to mortgage loan originator licensing requirements for employees of certain nonprofit corporations; provide

**Rep. S. Frye of the 118th
House Committee on Banks & Banking**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill allows employees of nonprofit corporations who are mortgage loan originators to be exempt from obtaining a mortgage loan originator license.

HB 752

Crawford County; provide for appointment of county surveyor

**Rep. Robert Dickey of the 140th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to abolish the elective office of county surveyor in Crawford County and to provide for the office to be appointive.

HB 753

Motor vehicles and traffic; federal regulatory requirements; provide

**Rep. Alan Powell of the 32nd
House Committee on Motor Vehicles**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 753 is the Department of Public Safety's bill to bring Georgia Code into compliance with the federal motor carrier statute. It also empowers the department to limit access of tractor trailer trucks on metro interstates during declared states of emergency, and failure to comply with this provision is a fine of \$1,000.

The bill includes language from House Bill 878 to allow motor vehicle towing and storage companies to recover the fees that were incurred after the sale of an abandoned motor vehicle at public auction.

HB 755

Ad valorem tax; revised definition of forest land fair market value; provisions

**Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation clarifies the definition of "forest land fair market value." Code Section 48-5-2 (6) currently states the value is the Fair market value (FMV) from 2008. The clarification states that if the 2008 value had been appealed and settled to a lower value, that value would be the value to which the forest land fair market value would be attached. Additionally, if a county had been using the appealed value and not the settled value in the local assistance grants, that county would be required to reimburse the state for the difference between to two sums. This legislation also provides for the appeals process as allowed for in §48-5-311, when determining the amount of tax that must be remitted before an appeal may be filed.

The bill states that the commissioner of revenue may not approve any digest of a county when more than five percent of the county's digest is in appeal in a year that a reassessment does not take place. In a year when a complete reevaluation does take place within that county, the commissioner may not approve a digest in which eight percent of the assessed value is in dispute and eight percent of the total number of properties is in dispute. The commissioner will have the ability to exclude any property in which the assessed value exceeds one and a half percent of the total value.

HB 755 also provides that on a non-homesteaded property, valued at \$2 million or more, the property owner may elect to either pay 85 percent of the disputed value or the total value of the last settled year's value. Additionally, if an appeal results in a deduction in the total tax liability which is less than the amount already paid by the property owner, the tax commissioner of the county must refund the difference within 60 days. Interest on the refund is based upon the earlier of November 15, or the date of the final installment was paid, and the interest will not be more than \$150 for a homesteaded property and \$5,000 for a non-homesteaded property. A request for a refund of illegally collected taxes may be submitted to the governing authority of the county but is not a requirement for filing a suit seeking such a refund.

HB 761

Public Retirement Systems Standards Law; definition of annual required contribution; change references

**Rep. Lynne Riley of the 50th
House Committee on Retirement**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 761 revises the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law as it relates to the annual employer contribution. This bill changes the definition of "annual required contribution" to reflect the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements No. 25 and 27 that went into effect June 15, 2013. This is a nonfiscal retirement bill.

HB 763

Georgia Military College; legislative intent language regarding certain postsecondary study beyond second year level; revise

**Rep. James Epps of the 144th
House Committee on Higher Education**

Final Bill Summary:

The bill allows Georgia Military College to develop a Bachelor's of Applied Sciences (BAS) degree program and to partner with the Technical College System of Georgia in counties where a Board of Regents institution is not currently offering said degree.

HB 764

Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan; certain employees make contributions at rate of 5 percent unless otherwise specified; provide

**Rep. Howard Maxwell of the 17th
House Committee on Retirement**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill revises the Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan (GSEPS). The initial contribution rate for employees who enroll in the 401(k) portion of the plan will be changed from one percent of the employee's salary to five percent in order to maximize the full state offered match. Employees may change their contribution rate at any time. This will take effect for employees hired on or after July 1, 2014. This is a nonfiscal retirement bill.

HB 766

Work Based Learning Act; enact

**Rep. Eddie Lumsden of the 12th
House Committee on Education**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill replaces the Youth Apprenticeship Program with a work-based learning program. It allows students in the 11th and 12th grades or a student over age 16 to enroll in a work-based learning program. Work-based learning programs are designed to provide students with real-world work opportunities to prepare them for a future career. Students who enter into this program will be granted leave time from school to work as a student learner for any business enterprise approved by the local work based learning coordinator. This bill also defines eligibility requirements for work based learning coordinators.

HB 768

Cherokee Judicial Circuit; Superior Court; change supplement paid to each judge

**Rep. Christian Coomer of the 14th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act providing a compensation supplement to the judges of the Superior Court of the Cherokee Judicial Circuit.

HB 769 - VETO

Schley County; Board of Education; change description of districts

**Rep. Mike Cheokas of the 138th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to reapportion the Schley County Board of Education.

HB 770

Crimes and offenses; crime of home invasion; create

**Rep. Chuck Efstoration of the 104th
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 770 creates the offense of home invasion. The offense of home invasion occurs when, without authority and with intent to commit a forcible felony (1st degree) or forcible misdemeanor (2nd degree) therein and while in possession of a deadly weapon or instrument, he or she enters or remains within the dwelling house of another while such dwelling house is occupied by any person with authority to be present. The punishment for home invasion of the first degree is imprisonment for life, or not less than ten nor more than 20 years. The punishment for home invasion of the second degree is imprisonment for not less than five nor more than 20 years. Adjudication of guilt or imposition of sentence shall not be suspended, probated, deferred, or withheld.

HB 772

Public assistance; drug testing for applicants for food stamps; require

**Rep. Greg Morris of the 156th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 772 directs the Department of Human Services to require a drug test to screen an applicant or recipient of food stamps at any time a reasonable suspicion exists that such applicant or recipient is using an illegal drug.

"Reasonable suspicion" may be based on information obtained by the department, including, but not limited to: an applicant or recipient's demeanor; missed appointments and arrest or other police records; previous employment or application for employment in an occupation or industry that regularly conducts drug screening; and termination from previous employment due to unlawful use of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog or prior drug screening records indicating unlawful use of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog.

The bill otherwise mirrors the requirements laid out in Code Section 49-4-193, relating to drug testing for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. It also amends that Code section to add the "reasonable suspicion" requirement for applicants and recipients of TANF funds.

HB 773

Crimes and offenses; discharging a gun or pistol near public highway or street; change provisions

**Rep. Robert Dickey of the 140th
House Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 773 changes provisions relating to discharging a gun or pistol near a public highway or street. Under this legislation, a firearm is defined as any handgun, rifle, or shotgun, and a public highway means every public street, road, and highway in this state. This legislation states that it shall be unlawful for any person without legal justification to discharge a firearm on or within 50 yards of a public highway. This Code section shall not apply to a discharge of a firearm which occurs within 50 yards of a public highway if such discharge is shielded from the view of a traveler on the public highway and occurs at indoor/outdoor sport shooting ranges, facilities used for firearm/hunting safety courses sponsored by a unit of government, and any business location of any person, firm, dealer, or pawnbroker licensed as a firearm dealer. Any person who violates these provisions of the Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

HB 774

Highways, bridges and ferries; require annual submission of State-wide Strategic Transportation progress report; provisions

**Rep. Sam Watson of the 172nd
House Committee on Transportation**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 774 requires the annual submission of a State-wide Strategic Transportation Plan progress report by the director of the Department of Transportation to the governor, lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House, and the chairpersons of both the House and Senate Transportation Committees covering the progress of all construction projects valued at \$10 million or more against the benchmarks. The bill further states that both a county and a municipality are prohibited from negotiating a contract unless that contract involves the expenditure of less than \$200,000. Both yellow and red signal indications are further defined by adding language relating to flashing yellow and red arrow signals that do not require drivers to stop if the traffic signal is properly signed as a pedestrian hybrid beacon or ramp meter and operating in the unactivated dark mode. Half of the roadway is also defined as all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one direction of travel. Pursuant to this legislation, the speed limit on a highway on the federal interstate system inside an urbanized population area of 50,000 or more may be increased from 65 to 70 miles per hour.

HB 776**Courts; information provided to compile state-wide master jury lists and county master jury lists; clarify**

**Rep. Alex Atwood of the 179th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 776 provides that the secretary of state must exclude persons whose voting rights have been removed from the list of registered voters supplied to the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Council of Superior Court Clerks ("council"). The Department of Public Health must provide death certificates dating back 15 years upon the Council's request, and that the Department of Corrections, Georgia Crime Information Center division of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the Board of Pardons and Paroles must provide a list of names of all persons convicted of a felony in state or federal court (excluding those who have had their civil rights restored) upon the council's request.

The bill deletes any references to county boards of jury commissioners, instead placing authority to manage the county master jury list in the county superior court clerk, or jury clerk, if applicable.

The bill provides that a person who has served as a juror at either the state or superior level cannot be called again to serve on a jury for any level of court until the next succeeding county master jury list has been received by the clerk.

HB 777**Watercraft; suspension of privileges to operate a vessel for violations of vessel laws of this state and other states; provisions**

**Rep. Alan Powell of the 32nd
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 777 provides for suspension of privileges to operate a vessel upon the waters of this state for violations of vessel laws of this state and/or other states. The bill seeks to create an Interstate Boating Violator Compact between our surrounding states with which we share common waterways. The compact is meant to coordinate boating activities and boating laws and promote adherence to those boating laws. States that are party to the compact must have reciprocal agreements with states that are members of the compact. The bill provides for a governing body for the purpose of administering the compact and coordination with other state's governing bodies.

HB 778**Food service establishments; certain nonprofit charitable entities from regulation; exempt**

**Rep. John Pezold of the 133rd
House Committee on Agriculture & Consumer Affairs**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation exempts certain non-profit, charitable entities from regulations required under the definition of a food service establishment. The term "food service establishment" is amended to not include any organization, operating on its own property or on a property for which it has written consent, which is exempt from taxes for the purposes of providing temporary accommodations in proximity to their treatment hospitals and where food is prepared, served or transported or stored by volunteers.

HB 782

Facilitating Business Rapid Response to State Declared Disasters Act of 2014; enact

**Rep. Bruce Williamson of the 115th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation allows utility contractors who come into the state or travel to another state during times of a natural disaster to pay and file taxes in their home states. This only applies during times of a natural disaster and immediate clean-up and restoration of services.

HB 783

Game and fish; provisions relating to rules and regulations used to establish criminal violations; update

**Rep. Bill Hitchens of the 161st
House Committee on Game, Fish, & Parks**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 783 amends Code Section 27-3-7, relating to hunting under the influence of alcohol or drugs, by revising the implied consent warning read at the time a chemical test is requested. The revised implied consent warning stipulates that the individual being tested must be convicted of hunting under the influence of drugs or alcohol for his or her privilege to hunt to be suspended. The bill also updates the date of which the rules and regulations of the Board of Natural Resources are in force and effect from February 5, 2013 to January 1, 2014.

HB 786

Game and fish; Type I nonresident infant lifetime sportsman's license; add

**Rep. David Knight of the 130th
House Committee on Game, Fish, & Parks**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 786 amends Code Section 27-2-3.1, relating to hunting licenses, sportsman's licenses, and lifetime sportsman's licenses. The revisions grant eligibility to acquire a lifetime sportsman's license to all nonresident individuals less than two years of age. The fee for a nonresident Type I (Infant) license shall be the same as a resident Type I (Infant) license. For the purpose of procuring a lifetime sportsman's license, the term "resident" is revised, and the domicile requirement is changed from 12 months to three months. The bill states that temporary identification cards and licenses do not establish residency, and the requirement of a secondary form of identification is removed. For Type I and Type Y lifetime licenses, a copy of a certified copy of a birth certificate to show age and parentage or a court order or other legal document establishing parental rights to show parentage shall be required. A replacement fee of up to \$10 shall be required to replace all lost, stolen, or destroyed licenses and the exception for Type S licenses has been removed.

HB 788

Ad valorem tax; property owned by University System of Georgia operated by third party; provide exemption

**Rep. Lynne Riley of the 50th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation provides for a ballot question ratifying an ad valorem exemption for properties held in title by the Board of Regents but are leased to a third party for purposes of operating the properties for the benefit of the board's colleges or universities.

HB 790

Civil practice; four-year statute of limitations for actions involving removal of timber from the property of another; provisions

**Rep. Chuck Williams of the 119th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 790 provides that claims for unauthorized cutting or cutting and carrying away of timber must be brought within four years.

The bill allows appointed investigators to execute search warrants and arrest warrants for criminal violations of forestry laws and to arrest, upon probable cause and without a warrant, any person found violating any criminal law of this state while the investigator is carrying out his or her duties, provided that such person must be immediately delivered to the sheriff of the county where the violation occurred. The investigator must promptly notify the sheriff or other law enforcement agency exercising jurisdiction within the county or city where any investigation is being conducted, and the investigator may not request any other state law enforcement agency to render assistance in an investigation without the consent of the sheriff or other law enforcement agency exercising jurisdiction in the county or city where the investigation is being conducted. The State Forestry Commission director may - and when the Governor requests, shall - direct investigators to assist any state law enforcement agency or political subdivision in any criminal case, in prevention or detection of violations of any law, or in the apprehension or arrest of any person who violates criminal laws of Georgia, of any other state, or of the United States.

The bill requires the purchaser of removed timber to give the seller of timber a "scale" ticket for such timber within 20 days after removal. It also creates a rebuttable presumption that a landowner selling timber from his land will not be liable for damage to his or her neighbor's property caused by the landowner's contractor (i.e., a third party who is not subject to the landowner selling timber) if prior to the harvesting the landowner provided the contractor a clear survey of the bounds of the property, physical markers of the boundaries were put in place, or the neighbors signed a document indicating that they agree with the landowner on what the boundaries are and a copy of that agreement was given to the contractor.

The bill designates damages available for converted timber: treble the fair market value of the trees cut as they stood, treble the diminished fair market value of any trees incidentally harmed, costs of reasonable reforestation, and attorney's fees and litigation expenses. Punitive damages are available when the defendant is a willful trespasser, and he or she will be presumed a willful trespasser when the boundary lines of the property have been clearly and accurately marked.

HB 791

Taxation; redrawing census tracts shall not disqualify a designated military zone as a less developed area; provide

**Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th
House Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill prevents areas adjacent to designated military zones from losing qualification as a less developed area because of redrawn census tracts.

HB 792

Mitchell County; board of elections and registration; create

**Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create a board of elections and registration for Mitchell County and to provide for its powers and duties.

HB 794

Compact for a Balanced Budget; adopt

**Rep. Paulette Braddock of the 19th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 794 proposes to amend the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced federal budget. The bill creates a compact that would bind Georgia and its legislature with every other state and state legislature that agrees to be bound.

The proposed amendment constrains the U.S. government from spending more than its total receipts, unless the excess spending is financed exclusively by government issued debt via "strict conformity with this article." Outstanding debt cannot exceed authorized debt. Authorized debt is initially set at 105 percent of the outstanding debt, i.e. outstanding debt can only be 5 percent greater than it currently is. Any issuance or incurrence of any debt in excess of the authorized debt is void.

In the proposed amendment, if the outstanding debt exceeds 98 percent of the authorized debt limit, the president must publicly designate specific expenditures to be impounded up to an amount which prevents the outstanding debt from exceeding the authorized debt. It is an impeachable misdemeanor if the president fails to designate or enforce the required impoundment.

Congress can increase the authorized debt under the proposed amendment, but only if the increase is approved by a simple majority of the legislatures of the states within 60 days after referral to the states and the approval is not conditioned, as a quid pro quo, on any inducements requiring an expenditure or tax levy.

Under the proposed amendment, any bill for an increased general revenue tax (i.e., sales, income, and value-added tax, but not including imposts and duties) must be approved by a two-thirds roll call vote of all the members of each house; however, this bill gives Congress permission to redo the entire tax system and allows Congress to reduce or eliminate tax deductions, exemptions, or credits that are allowed under an existing general revenue tax.

The terms of the compact contract specify that a member state may withdraw through legislation so long as less than three-quarters of the states have joined the compact. Once three-quarters of the states have agreed to the compact, then no state is permitted to withdraw.

The compact also contemplates the creation of a commission which can only lobby for legislation in favor of the compact, and must meet at least once a year. It will be comprised of members from member states (each member state is entitled to have at least three members in the commission). There must be at least two member states for the commission to be created. The commission will have a chief administrator and he or she can appoint other people on the commission and make other rules for membership. The commissioner can be fired by the commission. The commission has duties to give notice of relevant dates to parties who ask on meetings and relevant information regarding the compact. Members must take a temporary leave of absence from public office while attending the convention. Violation of the rules results in member forfeiture.

HB 795

Statesboro, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize

**Rep. Jan Tankersley of the 160th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Statesboro to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 800

Lanier County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections

**Rep. Jason Shaw of the 176th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for the nonpartisan election of the probate judge of the Probate Court of Lanier County.

HB 804

Trial proceedings; relating to testimony of a child ten years old or younger by closed circuit television and persons entitled to be present; repeal provisions

**Rep. Edward Lindsey of the 54th
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 804 adds a new Code section relating to the conduct of trial proceedings. The bill allows a child 17 years old or younger who was either a witness to or a victim of an alleged crime to give testimony by closed circuit television under certain circumstances. The bill also sets guidelines for those parties entitled to be present during the testimony and the requirements that must be met regarding the operation of the technology used in the proceeding.

HB 806

Riddleville, Town of; provide new charter

**Rep. Mack Jackson of the 128th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the Town of Riddleville.

HB 808

Cherokee County; board of commissioners; candidate reside in district in which they seek election for at least 12 months immediately proceeding election; provide

**Rep. Scot Turner of the 21st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide residency requirements for candidates for the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.

HB 809

Commerce and trade; bad faith assertions of patent infringement; prohibit

**Rep. Bruce Williamson of the 115th
House Committee on Banks & Banking**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill defines the terms used and associated with filing a demand letter asserting a patent infringement. It also provides guidance to state superior courts on determining the validity of a bad faith assertion of patent infringement, and guidance for determining damages if patent infringement has occurred.

HB 810

HOPE; home study students regarding scores on standardized college admission test; revise requirements

**Rep. Joyce Chandler of the 105th
House Committee on Appropriations**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill amends HOPE eligibility requirements for students who completed a home study program instead of graduating from an eligible high school. Under this bill, those students must score in the 80th percentile (currently 85th) or higher nationally on a standardized admission test, such as the SAT or ACT.

HB 814

St. Marys, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize

Rep. Jason Spencer of the 180th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of St. Marys to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 816

Sales and use tax; change a certain definition

Rep. Bruce Williamson of the 115th

House Committee on Ways & Means

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation clarifies a sales tax definition to ensure that postage is not included in the taxable sale of direct mail when the value of postage is a separately itemized line item and not marked up by the seller.

HB 820

Condominium associations; standing to participate in litigation under certain circumstances; clarify provisions

Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st

House Committee on Judiciary

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 820 provides that the capacity, power, and standing of condominium associations to bring or defend any claim or action relating to portions of units or common elements which the associations have the responsibility to administer, repair, or maintain cannot be waived or modified by any contract or document.

HB 822

Suwanee, City of; change corporate limits

Rep. Brooks Coleman of the 97th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to change the corporate limits of the City of Suwanee.

HB 824

Banking and finance; term "interest" does not include certain fees agreed upon by financial institution and depositor in written agreement between parties; clarify

Rep. Richard Smith of the 134th

House Committee on Banks & Banking

Final Bill Summary:

This bill clarifies the difference between financial charges and interest. Overdraft and nonsufficient funds, delinquency or default charges, returned payments, stop payment and automated teller machine charges are not to be considered interest.

HB 825

Alcoholic beverages; fruit growers licensed as farm wineries obtain license authorizing production of distilled spirits and fortified wines pursuant to certain conditions; permit

**Rep. Penny Houston of the 170th
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 825 provides an exception to licensed farm wineries to manufacture distilled spirits and fortified wines for sale through a licensed wholesaler as long as the farm winery has no more than one tasting room on its premises. Additionally, the commissioner of revenue shall not authorize farm wineries to offer wine samples in more than one tasting room.

HB 826

Crimes and offenses; carrying weapons within certain school safety zones and at school functions; change provisions

**Rep. Ed Setzler of the 35th
House Committee on Juvenile Justice**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 826 provides definitional changes of key terms relating to schools, school safety zones, and weapons.

The bill adds a provision that requires individuals who are licensed to carry a weapon to keep their license or their proof of exemption from such license in their immediate possession. If an individual does not have the license or proof of exemption in his or her immediate possession, the individual may be fined no more than \$10 if he or she produces the license, provided it was valid at the time of the arrest, or produces a proof of exemption in court.

HB 828

Insurance; solicitation, release, or sale of automobile accident information; prohibit

**Rep. Ronnie Mabra of the 63rd
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 828 prohibits the solicitation, release, or sale of car wreck information including the personal information of individuals involved in the accident. A first time violation of this provision is a misdemeanor. Second and subsequent violations are felonies.

HB 834

Bonded debt; population Act provision relating to dates of bond elections; repeal

**Rep. Valerie Clark of the 101st
House Committee on Governmental Affairs**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 834 repeals the law that required county-wide bond or school bond elections in the unincorporated area in counties with a population of 800,000 to be held on the November primary general election date unless the superior court ruled it harmful to the electors of the county.

HB 835

Controlled substances; Schedules I, III, and IV; change certain provisions

**Rep. Bruce Broadrick of the 4th
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 835 is the annual update of Schedule I, III, and IV controlled substances with regard to synthetic drugs commonly known as bath salts.

HB 836

Sumter County; board of education and school superintendent; revise and restate law

Rep. Mike Cheokas of the 138th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to revise the number of members and districts of the Sumter County Board of Education.

HB 837 - VETO

Probation services; provide for legislative findings and intent; provisions

Rep. Mark Hamilton of the 24th

House Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 837 provides for the supervision of misdemeanor and county and city ordinance offenders by county and municipal probation officers and private probation services providers. This bill states that it is the General Assembly's intention to authorize judges to use county and municipal probation service providers to supervise misdemeanor and county and city ordinance offenders in the same manner as the judges of the superior courts use state probation services as a way to supervise felony offenders while providing for the charge and payment of fees as a condition of probation. The bill also takes out the language of county or municipal court in relation to jurisdiction of probation matters as well as adds a list of terms and conditions for probation that the court may deem appropriate in which the probationer shall follow including: avoiding injurious and vicious habits, remaining in a specified location, and wearing a device capable of tracking the location of the probationer and detecting drug or alcohol use. This legislation allows judges to toll warrants when all efforts have been exhausted to find a running probationer while adding to the Code section an effective date for the tolling of the sentence. The judge is entitled to a quarterly report summarizing the number of offenders under supervision, the amount of fines collected, and the number of warrants issued during the quarter while any individual who is or was under probation supervision shall be permitted to inspect and copy his or her own probation file.

HB 838

Invasions of privacy; transmission of photography or video depicting nudity or sexually explicit conduct of an adult under certain circumstances; prohibit

Rep. Kevin Tanner of the 9th

House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 838 creates the offense of intimate harassment. The offense of intimate harassment occurs when a person knowingly and without consent of the depicted person, electronically posts photographs or video which depicts nudity or sexually explicit conduct, for no legitimate purpose, when the post is intended to cause harassment or causes financial loss to the depicted person. The provision applies to actors within and outside of Georgia. The exceptions to the conduct are for the legitimate activities of law enforcement, medical, scientific, and educational purposes. The bill provides for a rebuttable presumption that service providers do not know of the content of the electronic transmission or posts. Violation of this Code section is prosecuted as a high and aggravated misdemeanor and subsequent convictions are treated as felony offenses.

HB 840

Insurance; persons under authority of Commissioner and subject to penalties under Title 33; clarify

Rep. Rich Golick of the 40th

House Committee on Insurance

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 840 updates requirements for a person to be licensed by the commissioner of insurance, and provide continuity in the Code.

HB 842

Appeal and error; payment of costs and indigency affidavits; clarify provisions

**Rep. Wendell Willard of the 51st
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 842 waives the \$80 filing fee for criminal and habeas corpus cases and the \$300 filing fee for all other civil cases appealed to the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court if the pro-se applicant or pro-se appellant is incarcerated at the time of filing, counsel for the applicant or appellant was appointed due to indigency, or an affidavit of indigency has been filed.

HB 843

Retirement and pensions; ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations; change certain provisions

**Rep. Lynne Riley of the 50th
House Committee on Retirement**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill reflects the change the IRS is requiring to keep the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) in compliance with IRS pension plan regulations. It replaces the detailed IRC 415 language with a statement that the plans must qualify with IRC 415 requirements. Similar changes are made to the Legislative Retirement System and the Judicial Retirement System (both add IRC 414 employer "pick-up" language). This is a nonfiscal retirement bill.

HB 845

Public disclosure; disclosure of arrest booking photographs except under certain circumstances; prohibit

**Rep. Brian Strickland of the 111th
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 845 restricts the dissemination of arrest booking photographs unless the person requesting the photograph submits a statement to the law enforcement agency affirming that the photograph will not be used on a publication or website that requires a fee for the photograph to be removed.

HB 850

Valdosta, City of; levy an excise tax

**Rep. Dexter Sharper of the 177th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Valdosta to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 851

Sugar Hill, City of; incorporation of certain parcels of land into corporate limits; provide

**Rep. Brooks Coleman of the 97th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to change the corporate limits of the City of Sugar Hill.

HB 858 - VETO

Columbus, City of; Recorder's Court; impose and collect technology fee for each fine imposed

Rep. Calvin Smyre of the 135th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the Recorder's Court of Columbus, Georgia, to impose and collect a technology fee, not to exceed \$25 for each fine imposed.

HB 862

Fulton County; Board of Education; amend a definition; provisions

Rep. Harry Geisinger of the 48th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act providing the Fulton County Board of Education a system for pension and retirement pay to teachers and employees.

HB 863

Crimes and offenses; cruelty to animals and aggravated cruelty to animals; change provisions

Rep. Rich Golick of the 40th

House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil

Final Bill Summary:

HB 863 establishes the crime of aggravated cruelty to animals. The bill amends the definition of animal cruelty from "unjustifiable physical pain" to "causes physical pain, suffering, or death by an unjustifiable act or omission." As to aggravated animal cruelty, malicious intent is required. The bill separates "maliciously" and "physical harm" into two separate subsections, and includes "malicious torture," "malicious administration of poison," and "malicious failure to provide adequate care" as prohibited conduct. As to both cruelty and aggravated cruelty, the bill provides that an adjudication of guilty in another state, territory, or foreign country, which would constitute the same offense in this state, shall be guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor for cruelty to animals and a felony with one to ten years punishment for aggravated cruelty to animals.

HB 865

Berrien County; board of elections and registration; provide for composition of board and selection and appointment of members

Rep. Penny Houston of the 170th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend the Act creating the Berrien County Board of Elections and Registration to provide for the composition of the board and the selection and appointment of its members.

HB 866

Colquitt County; Board of Commissioners; change regular meeting requirements

Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend the Act recreating and establishing the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners to change the regular meeting requirements.

HB 867

Polk County; board of commissioners of roads and revenue; revise place of board meeting; provisions

Rep. Trey Kelley of the 16th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the Polk County Board of Commissioners of roads and revenue.

HB 870

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund; imposition of additional fine for reckless driving; provide

Rep. Kevin Tanner of the 9th

House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil

Final Bill Summary:

HB 870 provides for additional fines or fees for the offense of reckless driving to be placed in the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund. The companion constitutional amendment creating the trust fund is HR 1183.

HB 872

Evidence; privileged communication between law enforcement and peer counselors under certain circumstances; create

Rep. Terry Rogers of the 10th

House Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security

Final Bill Summary:

HB 872 creates privileged communication channels between law enforcement officers and peer counselors under certain circumstances. The bill defines client, immediate family, and peer counselor while stating that communications between a client and a peer counselor shall be privileged and not disclosed unless certain exceptions are met.

HB 873

Stephens County Public Facilities Authority Act; enact

Rep. Dan Gasaway of the 28th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create the Stephens County Public Facilities Authority and to provide for its powers and duties.

HB 877

Motor vehicles; local authorities ability to regulate use of personal transportation vehicles on roadways and designated paths and lanes; provide

Rep. Jay Roberts of the 155th

House Committee on Motor Vehicles

Final Bill Summary:

HB 877 updates and modernizes the Code as it relates to motorized carts and personal transportation vehicles. It establishes Georgia as the model for all states in the use of these vehicles on public paths and roadways.

HB 879

Barrow County Community Improvement Districts Act; enact

Rep. Terry England of the 116th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in Barrow County.

HB 880

Barrow County; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide referendum

Rep. Terry England of the 116th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize Barrow County to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 881

Special license plates; Grady Health Foundation; provide

Rep. James Epps of the 144th

House Committee on Motor Vehicles

Final Bill Summary:

HB 881 creates a special license plate for the Grady Health Foundation. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Grady Health Foundation.

Further, it changes the provisions regarding specialty license plates that share revenue with either a state agency or a non-profit organization. Currently the fee is \$35 with \$25 going to the state and \$10 to the named beneficiary. This bill will give \$25 to the beneficiary and \$10 to the state. The provisions of this bill will not take effect until the year 2020; with the exception of plates that benefit non-profit cancer research which is effective on the date the bill becomes law.

HB 883

Georgia merchant acquirer limited purpose banks; correct cross-references; provide

Rep. Brian Strickland of the 111th

House Committee on Banks & Banking

Final Bill Summary:

This bill provides clarification to chartered merchant acquirer limited purpose banks by correcting a cross-reference in a Code section from 7-9-11 to the correct 7-9-12.

HB 888

Rutledge, City of; residents 65 years of age or older; provide homestead exemption

Rep. Doug Holt of the 112th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from City of Rutledge ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$10,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are 65 years of age or older.

HB 892

Forsyth County Community Improvement District Act; enact

Rep. Mike Dudgeon of the 25th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for the creation of a community improvement district in Forsyth County.

HB 896

Macon-Bibb County Community Enhancement Authority; change membership of authority

Rep. James Beverly of the 143rd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to create the Macon-Bibb County Community Enhancement Authority.

HB 898

Interstate Compact for Juveniles; enact

Rep. B.J. Pak of the 108th

House Committee on Juvenile Justice

Final Bill Summary:

HB 898 repeals the 1972 Interstate Compact on Juveniles in Title 39 and enacts a new, revised Interstate Compact for Juveniles in Title 49. This compact between the states seeks to establish proper supervision and return of juveniles who have absconded from supervision and control. The bill provides that the compacting states create an "Interstate Commission for Juveniles."

HB 899

Unlicensed personal care homes; criminal penalties for owning or operating; provide

Rep. Sharon Cooper of the 43rd

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Final Bill Summary:

HB 899 establishes that the commissioner or the district attorney of the judicial circuit in which an unlicensed personal care home is located may file a petition against that unlicensed personal care home. Additionally, any individual who owns or operates an unlicensed personal care home is guilty of a felony; however, a judge may impose a misdemeanor sentence.

HB 900

State sales and use tax; consumable supplies used in manufacturing; include

Rep. Brett Harrell of the 106th

House Committee on Ways & Means

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation provides for an exemption for consumable supplies used in conjunction with qualified manufacturing machinery.

HB 901

Porterdale, City of; provide for certain appropriations; provisions

Rep. Pam Dickerson of the 113th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Porterdale.

HB 902

Forsyth County State Court; correct error in establishing terms of court; provisions

Rep. Mike Dudgeon of the 25th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of Forsyth County to correct an error in establishing the terms of court.

HB 904

Natural Resources, Department of; persons are not aggrieved by listings on hazardous site inventory that occur after a certain date; establish

Rep. Tom McCall of the 33rd

House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment

Final Bill Summary:

The bill adds language stating that any person aggrieved or adversely affected by a hazardous site inventory listing occurring after July 1, 2014, shall be entitled to a hearing as provided in O.C.G.A. 12-8-73.

HB 905 - VETO

Brookhaven, City of; provide for legislative findings and intent; provisions

Rep. Scott Holcomb of the 81st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A bill to amend an act incorporating the City of Brookhaven.

HB 906 - VETO

Chamblee, City of; provide legislative findings and intent; provisions

Rep. Scott Holcomb of the 81st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A bill to create a new charter for the City of Chamblee.

HB 908

Tire disposal restrictions; extend sunset date for tire fees

Rep. Lynne Riley of the 50th

House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment

Final Bill Summary:

This bill extends the tire fee collection until June 30, 2019.

HB 909

Winder, City of; change corporate limits

Rep. Terry England of the 116th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A bill to create a new charter for the City of Winder.

HB 911

Crimes and offenses; strangulation as aggravated assault; add provisions

Rep. Mandi Ballinger of the 23rd
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 911 defines and includes strangulation in the offence of aggravated assault. Strangulation is defined as impeding the normal breathing or circulation of blood by applying pressure to the throat or neck, or obstructing the nose or mouth using any object, device, or instrument.

HB 912

Manchester, City of; staggered terms of office for members of governing authority; provide

Rep. Debbie Buckner of the 137th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A bill to amend an act incorporating the City of Manchester to provide for staggered terms of office for members of the governing authority.

HB 915

Identity theft; security freezes for minors; provisions

Rep. Josh Clark of the 98th
House Committee on Banks & Banking

Final Bill Summary:

This bill provides guidance to consumer credit reporting agencies and representatives of minors by placing a security freeze on minors in the case of identity theft.

HB 916

Baconton, City of; provide new charter

Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A bill to provide a new charter for the City of Baconton.

HB 918

Revenue and taxation; define terms "Internal Revenue Code" and Internal Revenue Code of 1986"; provisions

Rep. Allen Peake of the 141st
House Committee on Ways & Means

Final Bill Summary:

This is the annual Internal Revenue Code update bill which amends dates within the Code. Because there were no significant federal tax policy changes this year, the annual update is limited. The legislation contains a requirement that payroll processors who file more than 250 withholding registrations must file electronically.

HB 920

Unclaimed Life Insurance Benefits Act; enact

**Rep. Sam Teasley of the 37th
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 920 provides that life insurance companies shall use the federal Death Master File when making comparisons of their in-force policies, annuities, and retained asset accounts.

HB 930

General Assembly; adopt standards and instructions for Article V convention delegates; provisions

**Rep. Timothy Barr of the 103rd
House Committee on Interstate Cooperation**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill amends Chapter 1 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding state government. It provides that the General Assembly shall adopt standards and instructions for Article V convention delegates. No delegate or alternate delegate to an Article V convention, or to any process which seeks to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States called for by the states under Article V, shall be appointed unless the appointment is provided for by the General Assembly.

HB 933

**Sales and use tax; regarding sale or use of certain property used in maintenance or repair of certain aircraft;
remove sunset exemption**

**Rep. Alex Atwood of the 179th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation removes the sunset on the sales tax exemption for parts used in the maintenance of qualified out-of-state registered aircraft. Additionally, the sales tax exemption for a civil rights museum, revises the total square footage requirement from 40,000 to 70,000 total square feet.

HB 938

Gwinnett County; office of chief magistrate; provide nonpartisan elections

**Rep. Chuck Efstoration of the 104th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for nonpartisan elections of the Chief Magistrate of Gwinnett County.

HB 939

Gwinnett County; office of probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections

**Rep. Chuck Efstoration of the 104th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for nonpartisan elections of the Probate Judge of the Probate Court of Gwinnett County.

HB 940

Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit and Oconee Judicial Circuit; election of additional judges; change date

**Rep. Wendell Willard of the 51st
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 940 moves back the expiration of the terms of the superior court judges in the Chattahoochee and Oconee Judicial Circuits appointed by the Governor in 2013 to December 31, 2016, in order to comply with Art. VI, Sec. VII, Para. IV of the Georgia Constitution.

HB 943

Cancer Treatment Fairness Act; enact

**Rep. Lee Hawkins of the 27th
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 943 provides that if a healthcare policy covers intravenous IV chemotherapy, it will provide coverage in the same manner for oral chemotherapy drugs.

This bill also includes the 'Georgia Healthcare Freedom Act'. This act prohibits any state governmental entity, monies or employee from advocating for the 'Affordable Care Act' (ACA). It prevents state employees from acting as navigators described by the ACA. Finally, it prevents Georgia from establishing a state healthcare exchange.

HB 944

Douglas County; board of elections and registration; composition of board and selection and appointment of members; provide

**Rep. K. Alexander of the 66th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend the Act creating the Douglas County Board of Elections and Registration to provide for the composition of the board and the selection and appointment of its members.

HB 953

Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; salary supplements for judges; change provisions

**Rep. B.J. Pak of the 108th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act providing a compensation supplement to the judges of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit.

HB 954

Ad valorem tax; property; change definition of fair market value

**Rep. Brett Harrell of the 106th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation provides that rent limitations must be factored into the assessment of property that is qualified for the low- income housing tax credit. Additionally, the valuation that results from incorporating the rent limitations cannot be used as a comparable valuation for surrounding properties.

HB 957

Georgia Brownfield Act; enact

**Rep. Chuck Williams of the 119th
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill changes the name of the 'Georgia Hazardous Site Reuse and Redevelopment Act' to the 'Georgia Brownfield Act'. It extends the limitation of liability provided under O.C.G.A. 12-8-207 to also benefit a qualifying purchaser who applies for a limitation of liability within 30 days following property acquisition in the qualifying property and receives the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) director's approval of a prospective purchaser corrective action plan or concurrence with a certification of compliance.

The bill also clarifies that the limitation of liability survives any subsequent change in the nature of the prospective purchaser's interest in the qualifying property, and automatically inures to the benefit of heirs, assignees, successors in title, and designees of the person to whom the limitation of liability is granted and to any person acquiring any other property interest in the property for which the limitation of liability was granted.

Also, any title transfer for a property or portion of property for which a limitation of liability has been granted to any party that would be disqualified from obtaining a limitation of liability for that property shall terminate the applicable limitation of liability to the transferor.

The limitation of liability provided also applies to any qualifying prospective purchaser who, after May 1, 2012, has applied for a limitation of liability for a qualifying property and who later obtains the EPD director's approval of a prospective purchaser corrective action plan or concurrence with a certification of compliance.

HB 958

Revenue and taxation; state income tax credit for qualified entertainment production companies; change certain provisions

**Rep. Chad Nimmer of the 178th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation renews the previously met cap of \$25 million for qualified interactive video game production companies, while requiring that the company had in the previous year \$500,000 in payroll within the state in the previous year. Companies that claim the credit will not be allowed to claim more than \$1.5 million in a single year and every credit must be applied from the Department of Economic Development.

The legislation also renews the back to school and energy star sales tax exemptions for two more years. Two-year sales tax exemptions for purchases made by a nonprofit food bank and projects of regional significance are extended until June 30, 2016.

HB 961

Charlton County; board of commissioners; change provisions relating to districts

**Rep. Ellis Black of the 174th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to reapportion the Charlton County Board of Commissioners.

HB 962

Charlton County; board of education; change provisions relating to districts

**Rep. Ellis Black of the 174th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to reapportion the Charlton County Board of Education.

HB 965

Georgia 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law; enact

**Rep. Sharon Cooper of the 43rd
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 965 provides limited immunity to individuals seeking medical assistance for a drug overdose regarding evidence obtained solely from seeking medical assistance. The immunity is limited to drug violations involving small amounts of narcotics or paraphernalia. The same standard applies for both the individual seeking medical assistance and the individual who has overdosed. The bill also provides for first responders who have had previous training, physicians, and pharmacists, who in good faith and without gross negligence, administer opioid antagonists (a drug that inhibits the effects of opioid overdoses) to be immune from civil liability.

HB 966

Pharmacies; licensed health practitioners prescribe opioid antagonists to certain individuals and entities pursuant to a protocol; provisions

**Rep. Sharon Cooper of the 43rd
House Committee on Health & Human Services**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 966 establishes the Alzheimer's Disease Registry within the Department of Public Health for the purpose of maintaining a central data base of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and for developing policies related to this disease. The data in the registry will be confidential, and all persons to whom the data is released shall maintain patient confidentiality.

HB 967

City of McRae-Helena; create and incorporate new municipality; provisions

**Rep. Jimmy Pruett of the 149th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a unified form of government for the City of Helena and the City of McRae, to provide for its powers and duties.

HB 973

Medicaid; changes to civil penalties for false or fraudulent claims; provisions

**Rep. Edward Lindsey of the 54th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 973 brings the 'Georgia False Medicaid Claims Act' (GFMCA) into alignment with Section 1909 of the 'Federal Social Security Act'. Without an alignment of the state act with the 'Federal False Claims Act' prior to April 15, 2014, Georgia stands to lose its 10 percent enhanced share of any recovery for successful actions brought under the GFMCA.

The bill establishes liability for the same breadth of conduct as the 'Federal False Claims Act', as amended by the 'Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009'. It clarifies the definition of 'Georgia Medicaid program' to include any contractor, subcontractor, or agency for the "Georgia Medicaid program" to include any contractor, subcontractor, agency performing services for the "Georgia Medicaid program".

The bill also makes the GFMCA as effective in rewarding and facilitating qui tam actions as the 'Federal False Claims Act'. The amended language clarifies that the GFMCA cannot bar actions based on public disclosures that are brought in a federal "report, hearing, audit, or investigation."

HB 976

Fayetteville, City of; levy an excise tax

Rep. Virgil Fludd of the 64th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Fayetteville to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 978

Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority; change provisions relating to membership

Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

This bill amends the Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority by providing provisions for membership and term limits of the authority. The membership of the authority will consist of one member appointed by each member of the Georgia General Assembly representing a portion of Chatham County, one member appointed by the majority vote of the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County and one member appointed by the majority vote of the mayor and aldermen of the City of Savannah. The president of the Savannah Economic Development Authority and the president of the Savannah Area Convention and Visitors' Bureau shall both serve as ex-officios and have a vote.

HB 979

Education; provide for membership of certain boards in the event local legislation is not passed during 2014 regular session of General Assembly conforming size of boards to requirements of law; provisions

Rep. Mike Jacobs of the 80th

House Committee on Governmental Affairs

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 979 abolishes the two at-large school board seats in DeKalb County on January 1, 2015 unless local legislation is enacted in the 2014 Session of the General Assembly.

HB 982

Financial institutions; repeal Articles 4 and 4A; enact new Articles 4 and 4A; provisions

Rep. Bruce Williamson of the 115th

House Committee on Banks & Banking

Final Bill Summary:

This bill deals with the sale of checks or money orders, as well as the cashing of checks, drafts or money orders by providing definitions and authorized activities. It further clarifies transaction of business without a license, exemptions from licensure and participation in a uniform multistate automated licensing system by the Department of Banking and Finance to facilitate oversight and issuance of licenses.

HB 983

State sales and use tax; clarify eligible exemptions; provisions

Rep. Tom McCall of the 33rd

House Committee on Ways & Means

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation clarifies the Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption program by clearly defining what is to be exempt from sales taxes when used in conjunction with agriculture. Agriculture operations are delineated to provide a clear definition of what is to be deemed agriculture who qualifies as a producer. The commissioner of agriculture is required to verify farming activity through certain tax filings of the applicant as well as work with the Department of Revenue to produce a list of exempted items.

HB 985

Crimes and offenses; filing false liens or encumbrances against public employees; change provisions

**Rep. Tom Kirby of the 114th
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 985 makes it unlawful for any person to knowingly file, enter, or record any document in a public record or court that the person knowingly or having reason to know that such document contains materially false information. The bill also makes it unlawful to knowingly alter, conceal, cover up, or create a document and subsequently file or record. The purpose is to make unlawful the filing of false liens, false titles, bankruptcies, and etc.

HB 986

Lowndes County State Court; provide additional judge; provisions

**Rep. Ellis Black of the 174th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act establishing the State Court of Lowndes County to provide an additional judge, the election and terms of office for the judges, and for compensation.

HB 989

Alpharetta, City of; levy an excise tax

**Rep. Chuck Martin of the 49th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Alpharetta to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 990

Social services; expansion of Medicaid eligibility through increase in income threshold without prior legislative approval; prohibit

**Rep. Jan Jones of the 47th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 990 prohibits the Department of Community Health, Board of Community Health, or any representative of the state from expanding Medicaid eligibility through an increase in the income threshold without prior legislative approval. This does not include an increase resulting from a cost-of-living increase in the federal poverty level.

HB 995

Scotland, City of; provide four-year terms for mayor and council members

**Rep. Jimmy Pruett of the 149th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act incorporating the City of Scotland.

HB 997

Early County; board of elections and registration; provide

Rep. Gerald Greene of the 151st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for a Board of Elections and Registration for Early County and to provide for its powers and duties.

HB 998

Medical scholarships; revise provisions relating to scholarships and loans

Rep. Matt Hatchett of the 150th

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 998 revises the powers of the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce as it relates to medical student loans and scholarships. The bill allows students who are accepted into an accredited medical school to apply for loans or scholarships offered by the Board for Physician Workforce. The full amount of the loans and scholarships will be repaid to the State of Georgia in services rendered by the applicant by practicing his or her profession in an area of the state that is rural and underserved by primary care physicians.

The bill specifies that an applicant who is unable to obtain licensure from the Georgia Composite Medical Board to practice medicine is immediately liable to the board for all sums owed with a minimum of 12 percent interest. The board may consent to a lesser measure of damages for compelling reasons. Additionally, an applicant who fails to obtain licensure due to a breach of his or her contract will be liable for three times the total uncredited amount of their loans or scholarships.

HB 999

Dacula, City of; change the corporate boundaries

Rep. Chuck Efstoration of the 104th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create a new charter for the City of Dacula.

HB 1000

Revenue and taxation; setoff debt collection against state income tax refunds for debts owed to political subdivisions and courts; provisions

Rep. Barry Fleming of the 121st

House Committee on Governmental Affairs

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 1000 allows the various courts in Georgia to recover any unpaid court fines by garnishing an individual's state income tax return.

HB 1001

Rome, City of; levy excise tax

Rep. Katie Dempsey of the 13th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Rome to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 1002

Jeffersonville, City of; provide new charter

Rep. James Epps of the 144th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Jeffersonville.

HB 1003

Irwinton, City of; provide new charter

Rep. James Epps of the 144th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Irwinton.

HB 1009

State sales and use tax; applicability of exemption to local sales and use tax cap for a county that levied a tax for purposes of a metropolitan area system of public transportation; extend date

Rep. Mike Glanton of the 75th

House Committee on Transportation

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 1009 extends the date of an exemption to the local sales and use tax cap for a county that levied a tax for the purposes of a metropolitan area system of public transportation to November 1, 2016.

HB 1012

Metter, City of; increase the excise tax

Rep. Butch Parrish of the 158th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Metter to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 1015

Concord, City of; increase term of office of mayor and city councilmembers

Rep. J. Caldwell of the 131st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create a new charter for the City of Concord.

HB 1016

Fairburn, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for referendum

Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague of the 65th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Fairburn to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1017

Fairburn, City of; levy an excise tax

Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague of the 65th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Fairburn to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 1018

Hart County; create board of elections and registration

Rep. Alan Powell of the 32nd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create a board of elections and registration for Hart County and to provide for its powers and duties.

HB 1019

Hartwell, City of; levy an excise tax

Rep. Alan Powell of the 32nd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Hartwell to levy a hotel/motel tax.

HB 1022

Oak Park, City of; provide for new charter

Rep. Butch Parrish of the 158th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Oak Park.

HB 1024

Macon Water Authority Act; change description of electoral districts

Rep. Nikki Randall of the 142nd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act known as the 'Macon Water Authority Act', so as to change the description of the electoral districts.

HB 1028

Cobb County; Board of Commissioners; change description of districts

Rep. Ed Setzler of the 35th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to reapportion the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.

HB 1030

Dodge County; chief magistrate; provide nonpartisan elections

Rep. Jimmy Pruett of the 149th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide that future elections for the Office of Chief Magistrate of Dodge County shall be nonpartisan elections.

HB 1031

Dodge County; office of coroner; provide nonpartisan elections

Rep. Jimmy Pruett of the 149th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide that future elections for the Office of Coroner of Dodge County shall be nonpartisan elections.

HB 1032

Dodge County; judge of probate court; provide nonpartisan elections

Rep. Jimmy Pruett of the 149th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide that future elections for the Office of Probate Judge of Dodge County shall be nonpartisan elections.

HB 1036

Waverly Hall, Town of; reincorporate and provide for a charter

Rep. Debbie Buckner of the 137th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to reincorporate and provide for a charter of the Town of Waverly Hall.

HB 1037

Forsyth County Public Facilities Authority; revise a definition; remove certain limitations regarding construction of buildings

Rep. Geoff Duncan of the 26th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the Forsyth County Public Facilities Authority to revise a definition.

HB 1041

Baxley, City of; provide for new charter

Rep. Greg Morris of the 156th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for a new charter for the City of Baxley.

HB 1042

Auctioneers; relative to auctioneers and auction business; change certain provisions

**Rep. Katie Dempsey of the 13th
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

HB 1042 strikes the definition of “apprentice auctioneer” and all related language from Chapter 6 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

HB 1043

Henry County; Board of Elections and Registration; provide process for removing elections supervisor for cause; provisions

**Rep. Dale Rutledge of the 109th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for the Henry County Board of Elections and Registration, so as to provide for a process for removing the elections supervisor for cause.

HB 1048

Forsyth County; Board of Registrations and Elections; increase membership

**Rep. Mark Hamilton of the 24th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the Forsyth County Board of Registration and Elections, so as to increase membership.

HB 1058

Fulton County; provide for appointment of magistrates; repeal Act

**Rep. Wendell Willard of the 51st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to repeal an Act providing for the appointment of magistrates in Fulton County.

HB 1059

Fulton County State Court; revise certain fees

**Rep. Wendell Willard of the 51st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act establishing a municipal court of the City of Atlanta, so as to revise certain fees.

HB 1060

Fulton County Superior Court; clerk of court have oversight of budget; provisions

**Rep. Wendell Willard of the 51st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for administration of the budget of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Fulton County, so the clerk of court shall have oversight of the budget.

HB 1061

Fulton County Juvenile Court; chief administrative officer have oversight of budget; provisions

Rep. Wendell Willard of the 51st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for administration of the budget of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, so that the chief administrative officer shall have oversight of the budget.

HB 1067

Wheeler County; office of probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections

Rep. Jimmy Pruett of the 149th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide that future elections of the Office of Probate Judge of Wheeler County shall be nonpartisan elections.

HB 1068

Wheeler County; office of coroner; provide nonpartisan elections

Rep. Jimmy Pruett of the 149th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide that the future elections for the Office of Coroner of Wheeler County shall be nonpartisan elections.

HB 1069

Irwin County; board of commissioners; provide salary of chairperson

Rep. Jay Roberts of the 155th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Irwin County, so as to provide the salary of the chairperson.

HB 1071

Winder, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

Rep. Terry England of the 116th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Winder to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1072

Statham, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

Rep. Terry England of the 116th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Statham to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1073

Bethlehem, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

Rep. Terry England of the 116th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Bethlehem to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1075

Whitfield County; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

Rep. Bruce Broadrick of the 4th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize Whitfield County to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1077

Downtown Athens Development Authority; provide for powers, duties and responsibilities; provisions

Rep. Regina Quick of the 117th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the Downtown Athens Development Authority.

HB 1078

Courts; juries and grand juries; provisions

Rep. Trey Kelley of the 16th

House Committee on Judiciary

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 1078 inserts language regarding "trial and grand" juries and jurors throughout Chapter 12 of Title 15 to clarify that reference to "jury" or "jurors" includes both trial and grand juries or jurors.

The bill eliminates the restriction on grand jury service for more than four weeks out of every year, and provides that a person who has served as either a trial or grand juror at either the state or superior level cannot be called again to serve on any jury for any level of court until the next succeeding county master jury list has been received by the clerk.

The bill also aligns the clerk's procedure for choosing grand jurors with that of choosing trial jurors. It allows the court, when the district attorney requests, to empanel one or more concurrent grand juries, and permits the judge and district attorney to conduct voir dire examinations of grand jurors prior to empaneling them.

Additionally, when there are not a sufficient number of persons summoned to complete empaneling of a grand jury, the bill requires the presiding judge to order the clerk to choose a sufficient number of prospective grand jurors necessary to complete the grand jury at random from those people summoned as trial jurors.

HB 1079

Holly Springs, City of; terms and manner of election of mayor and councilmembers; provide

Rep. Scot Turner of the 21st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create a new charter for the City of Holly Springs

HB 1080

State government; capitol grounds; provide for placement of statue of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rep. Calvin Smyre of the 135th

House Committee on State Properties

Final Bill Summary:

House Bill 1080 amends Code Section 50-3, relating to the state flag, seal, and other symbols, by adding a new article to require that a privately funded statue of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. be placed on the capitol grounds of the state capitol building or in another prominent place. The statue shall be placed as soon as practicable but not before any necessary intellectual property license has been granted.

HB 1082

Sandersville, City of; election of members of city council; change provisions

Rep. Mack Jackson of the 128th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for a new charter for the City of Sandersville.

HB 1086

Kingsland; City of; change certain provision relating to debts of district

Rep. Ellis Black of the 174th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create one or more community improvement districts in the City of Kingsland, so as to change certain provisions relating to debts of districts.

HB 1090

Arlington, City of; provide new charter

Rep. Gerald Greene of the 151st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Arlington.

HB 1092

Fayette County Public Facilities Authority; grant power with regard to storm-water management systems

Rep. John Yates of the 73rd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the Fayette County Public Facilities Authority.

HB 1093

Eatonton, City of; ad valorem tax; municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption

Rep. Mickey Channell of the 120th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from City of Eatonton ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$10,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents.

HB 1094

Eatonton, City of; ad valorem tax; municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption

Rep. Mickey Channell of the 120th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Eatonton ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead for residents of that county who are 70 years of age or older.

HB 1095

Eatonton, City of; ad valorem tax; municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption

Rep. Mickey Channell of the 120th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Eatonton ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead.

HB 1097

Macon-Bibb County Community Improvement Districts Act; enact

Rep. Nikki Randall of the 142nd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in Macon-Bibb County.

HB 1099

Warren County; board of education member to serve simultaneously as deputy coroner and deputy coroner serve simultaneously as board member; authorize

Rep. Mack Jackson of the 128th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide that a member of the board of education of Warren County shall be authorized to serve simultaneously as deputy corner of Warren County or that the deputy coroner of Warren County shall be authorized to serve simultaneously on the board of the education of Warren County.

HB 1102

Dalton, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

Rep. Bruce Broadrick of the 4th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Dalton to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1103

Young Harris, City of; revise terms of office and manner of election of mayor and council

Rep. Stephen Allison of the 8th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to revise the terms of office and manner of election of mayor and council for the City of Young Harris.

HB 1104

Habersham County State Court; provide judge and solicitor shall be part-time positions

Rep. Terry Rogers of the 10th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating and establishing the State Court of Habersham County to provide for terms of office for the judge and solicitor of said court, and to provide for compensation.

HB 1105

Telfair County; providing county officers shall be ineligible to hold office under certain conditions; repeal amendment

Rep. Jimmy Pruett of the 149th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to repeal the amendment to the Constitution of Georgia providing that county officers of Telfair County shall be ineligible to hold office under certain conditions.

HB 1106

Bryan County; create board of elections and registration; provisions

Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create a Board of Elections and Registration for Bryan County, so as to provide for the powers and duties.

HB 1108

Douglas County; Board of Education; provide for compensation of members

Rep. Micah Gravley of the 67th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the Douglas County Board of Education, so as to provide for compensation of members.

HB 1109

Dunwoody, City of; provide for a special service district; provisions

Rep. Tom Taylor of the 79th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act incorporating the City of Dunwoody, so as to provide for a special service district.

HB 1111

Cohutta, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

Rep. Tom Dickson of the 6th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Cohutta to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1112

Varnell, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

Rep. Tom Dickson of the 6th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Varnell to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1113

Tunnel Hill, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

Rep. Steve Tarvin of the 2nd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Tunnel Hill to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1114

Hinesville, City of; change corporate limits

Rep. Al Williams of the 168th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to create a new charter for the City of Hinesville to change the corporate limits.

HB 1115

Fulton County; change certain definitions; provisions

Rep. Harry Geisinger of the 48th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating one or more community improvement districts in unincorporated Fulton County.

HB 1116

Port Wentworth, City of; change corporate boundaries

Rep. Bill Hitchens of the 161st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to incorporate the City of Port Wentworth, so as to change the corporate boundaries.

HB 1117

Port Wentworth, City of; change penalties imposed by municipal court

Rep. Bill Hitchens of the 161st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to incorporate the City of Port Wentworth, so as to change the penalties which may be imposed by the municipal court.

HB 1118

Port Wentworth, City of; change compensation of mayor and council

Rep. Bill Hitchens of the 161st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to incorporate the City of Port Wentworth, so as to change the compensation of the mayor and council.

HB 1120

Locust Grove, City of; provide for qualifications for office; provisions

Rep. David Knight of the 130th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to create a new charter for the City of Locust Grove.

HB 1121

Douglas, City of; compensation of mayor and commissioners; revise provisions

Rep. Chuck Sims of the 169th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Douglas to revise provisions related to the compensation of the mayor and commissioners.

HB 1122

Cobb County State Court; change compensation of judges

Rep. Stacey Evans of the 42nd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of Cobb County to change the compensation of the judges of state court.

HB 1123

Cobb County superior court; change compensation of clerk

Rep. Earl Ehrhart of the 36th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act changing the compensation of the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Sheriff, and the Judge of the Probate Court of Cobb County from the fee system to the salary system.

HB 1124

Kennesaw, City of; change provisions relating to corporate limits

Rep. Ed Setzler of the 35th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Kennesaw, so as to change the provisions relating to the corporate limits of the city.

HB 1126

Cobb Judicial Circuit; supplement to each judge of superior court and additional supplement for chief judge; provide

Rep. Stacey Evans of the 42nd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide compensation for the judges of the Cobb Judicial Circuit.

HB 1127

Cobb County Probate Court; change compensation of judge

Rep. Stacey Evans of the 42nd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide compensation for the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Sheriff, and the Judge of the Probate Court of Cobb County from the fee system to the salary system.

HB 1128

Clarkston, City of; change corporate limits

Rep. Michelle Henson of the 86th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to change the corporate limits of the City of Clarkston, so as to annex certain territory.

HB 1129

Hamilton, City of; provide new charter

Rep. John Pezold of the 133rd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide for a new charter for the City of Hamilton.

HB 1131

Hall County; create board of elections and registration

Rep. Carl Rogers of the 29th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create the Board of Elections and Registration for Hall County to provide for its powers and duties.

HB 1132

Gainesville Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority Act; enact

Rep. Carl Rogers of the 29th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to create the Gainesville Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority.

HB 1133

Macon, City of; Payne City, City of; Bibb County; commissioners be eligible to participate in health care benefits; provide for certain purposes

Rep. Nikki Randall of the 142nd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to provide for the restructuring of the government of the City of Macon, the City of Payne City, and Bibb County.

HB 1134

Fort Oglethorpe, City of; provide for use of certain lands; provisions

Rep. Tom Weldon of the 3rd

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Fort Oglethorpe.

HB 1135

Ellijay, City of; change corporate boundaries and exclude certain territory

Rep. David Ralston of the 7th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Ellijay.

HB 1136

Brookhaven, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide a referendum

Rep. Mike Jacobs of the 80th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the City of Brookhaven to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.

HB 1137

Holly Springs, City of; provide terms and manner of elections of mayor and councilmembers

Rep. Scot Turner of the 21st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Holly Springs, so as to provide for the terms and manner of election of the mayor and councilmembers.

HB 1138

Doraville, City of; change corporate limits; provisions

Rep. Scott Holcomb of the 81st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act reincorporating the City of Doraville to change the corporate limits and provide an effective date.

HB 1139

Doraville, City of; change corporate limits; provisions

Rep. Scott Holcomb of the 81st

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act reincorporating the City of Doraville to change the corporate limits and provide for a referendum.

HB 1144

Powder Springs, City of; provide annexation of certain property

Rep. David Wilkerson of the 38th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Powder Springs, so as to provide for annexation of certain property.

HB 1146 - VETO

Effingham County; board of education; change compensation for members

Rep. Jon Burns of the 159th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act to reconstitute the Effingham County Board of Education, so as to change the compensation for members.

HB 1147

Orchard Hill, City of; provide new charter

Rep. David Knight of the 130th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Orchard Hill.

HR 550

General Assembly; election of local school superintendents as alternative to appointment; provide - CA

**Rep. Rick Jasperse of the 11th
House Committee on Education**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 550 creates the House Study Committee on the Role of Federal Government in Education. The composition of the committee includes the House Education Committee Chair and the House Higher Education Committee Chair or a person designated by them. It will also include three additional House members, a State Board of Education member, three local superintendents, three teachers, and three parents or grandparents. The purpose of the committee is to study the federal government's role in public education and whether a recommendation should be made that the United States Department of Education be abolished.

HR 870

Capitol Arts Standards Commission; arrange placement of portrait of former Speaker Pro Tempore Jack Connell in state capitol; urge

**Rep. Barbara Sims of the 123rd
House Committee on State Properties**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 870 urges the Capitol Arts Standards Commission to arrange for placement of a portrait of former Speaker Pro Tempore Jack Connell in an appropriate location.

HR 1038

Georgia Department of Education and others; place Georgia at the forefront of the return of manufacturing to the United States; recognize and encourage

**Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th
House Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution encourages the Department of Education, Technical College System of Georgia, University System of Georgia, Department of Community Affairs, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Development to place Georgia at the forefront of the return of manufacturing in the U.S.

HR 1055

Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012; repeal or amend; encourage

**Rep. Alex Atwood of the 179th
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1055 is a resolution urging the United States Congress to amend or repeal the 'Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012.

HR 1183

General Assembly; additional penalties or fees for reckless driving and provide allocation of fees to Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund; impose - CA

**Rep. Kevin Tanner of the 9th
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1183 proposes amending the Constitution of Georgia to impose additional penalties or fees for the offense of reckless driving and to provide that the allocation of such additional penalties or fees shall go to the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund. The companion legislation is House Bill 870.

HR 1185

Green Apple Day of Service; state-wide participation; encourage

**Rep. Karla Drenner of the 85th
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution encourages state-wide participation in Green Apple Day of Service.

HR 1186

State Board of Education and State Department of Education; successful completion of SKILLS FOR SUCCESS financial literacy class; impose requirement for high school graduation

**Rep. Harry Geisinger of the 48th
House Committee on Education**

Final Bill Summary:

This Resolution requests that the State Board of Education and State Department of Education impose a requirement that high school students successfully complete a "Skills for Success" financial literacy class prior to graduation. The class would include components such as resume writing, job interview preparation, how to balance a checkbook, and an understanding of insurance, good work ethic, budgeting, and credit card management. Students should also have an appreciation of civic responsibilities such as voting and an understanding of the soft skills needed for employment.

HR 1200

Trooper James David Young Memorial Highway; City of Fitzgerald; dedicate

**Rep. Jay Roberts of the 155th
House Committee on Transportation**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1200 is a set of road facility dedications honoring fallen state troopers who were killed in the line of duty serving the State of Georgia. The following dedications are included:

- Part I: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 107 from the eastern city limit of Fitzgerald to the northwest city limit as the Trooper James David Young Memorial Highway.
- Part II: Dedicates the bridge on Ga. 1 over Blacks Bluff Road in Floyd County as the Trooper First Class Donward Francis Langston Memorial Bridge.
- Part III: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 11 from its intersection with I-985 to the Jackson County line as the Corporal Tyrone Collier Dillard Memorial Highway.
- Part IV: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 15 from the northern city limit of Eatonton to the southern city limit of Madison as the Trooper John Dixon Morris Memorial Highway.
- Part V: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 24 from the western city limit of Waynesboro to the intersection of GA 305 as the Special Agent Lt. Benjamin Louis Sentell Memorial Highway.
- Part VI: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 215 from the southern city limit of Vienna to the northern city limit of Pitts as the Trooper First Class James Keith Stewart, Jr. Memorial Highway.
- Part VII: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 257 from the southern city limit of Hawkinsville to the northern city limit of Cordele as the Special Agent Larry Paul Collins Memorial Highway.
- Part VIII: Dedicates the bridge on U.S. 441 over the railroad tracks between the intersection of Ga. 12 and lower Apalachee Road in Morgan County as the Trooper First Class Keith Harlan Sewell Memorial Bridge.
- Part IX: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 6 from the U.S. 27 Bypass to the western city limit of Rockmart as the Trooper Billy Arthur Tanner Memorial Highway.
- Part X: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 41 from the northern city limit of Talbotton to the southern city limit of Woodland as the T Trooper First Class Williams Gaines Andrews, Jr. Memorial Highway.
- Part XI: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 184 from the Jeanette Jamieson Intersection with Ga. 365 and the Ga. 17 Toccoa Bypass to the intersection of Dicks Hill Parkway as the Trooper Edward Clifton Taylor Memorial Highway.
- Part XII: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 52 from its intersection with Rackley Road to the Dawson County line as the Trooper Mark Allen Page Memorial Highway.
- Part XIII: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 15 from the northern city limit of Tallulah Falls to the southern city limit as the Trooper Victory Harvey Turpen Memorial Highway.
- Part XIV: Dedicates the bridge over Lake Burton on U.S. 76 as the Trooper Bobby Stanton Memorial Bridge.

HR 1265

House Study Committee on Autonomous Vehicle Technology; create

**Rep. Trey Kelley of the 16th
House Committee on Science & Technology**

Final Bill Summary:

HR 1265 creates the House Study Committee on Autonomous Vehicle Technology. The five member study committee shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The committee shall undertake a study of the issues surrounding autonomous vehicles and publish a report of its findings and recommendations by Dec. 31, 2014.

HR 1279

Savannah River Basin; development of water management plan; encourage

**Rep. Alan Powell of the 32nd
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1279, on behalf of the Joint State Water Caucus, encourages the appropriate Georgia and South Carolina agencies, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop and implement an adaptive water management plan for the Savannah River Basin.

HR 1280

United States Congress; support successful negotiation of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between United States and European Union; encourage

**Rep. Michael Caldwell of the 20th
House Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution encourages the federal government to support the successful negotiation of a mutually beneficial Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the United States and the European Union.

HR 1332

House Study Committee on Compensating Wrongfully Convicted Persons; create

**Rep. Carolyn Hugley of the 136th
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1332 creates a House Study Committee on Compensating Wrongfully Convicted Persons. The Committee will be composed of five members appointed by the Speaker. At least two of the members will be from the minority party. The Speaker shall appoint one of the members to serve as chairperson.

The Committee will create a report with a focus on the creation of a method for fairly and reasonably compensating wrongfully convicted persons. The report will be completed on or before December 1, 2014 and the committee will be abolished on December 1, 2014.

HR 1523

Joint Study Committee to Review and Recommend Necessary Changes to Georgia Code of Military Justice; create

**Rep. Christian Coomer of the 14th
House Committee on Defense & Veterans Affairs**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution creates a House study committee to review and recommend changes to the Georgia Code of Military Justice.

HR 1544

Major Henry Talmage Elrod Memorial Highway; Turner County; dedicate

Rep. Jay Roberts of the 155th
House Committee on Transportation

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1544 is the annual House and Senate road and bridge facility dedication. The following dedications are included:

- Part I: Dedicates the portion of State Route 112 from Rebecca to Ashburn in Turner County as the Major Henry Talmage Elrod Memorial Highway.
- Part II: Dedicates the portion of U.S. Highway 19 from its intersection with the north Lee County line to its intersection with the south Lee County line as Veterans Memorial Highway.
- Part III: Dedicates the intersection of U.S. Route 80 at U.S. 441 Bypass in Laurens County as the Tuskegee Airmen Major Herndon Cummings, Colonel John Whitehead, and Colonel Marion Rodgers Intersection.
- Part IV: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 53 from Mars Hill Road to Union Church Road in Oconee County as the Deputy David W. Gilstrap Memorial Highway.
- Part V: Dedicates the bridge on U.S. Route 82 over Pachitla Creek in Randolph County as the William Riley Curry Bridge.
- Part VI: Dedicates the bridge on East Hancock Street and Ga. 24 over the Oconee River in Baldwin County as the Bobby Parham Bridge.
- Part VII: Dedicates the interchange of I-475 and Thomaston Road in Macon-Bibb County as the Veterans of All Wars Interchange.
- Part VIII: Dedicates the portion of State Route 67 in Bulloch County from its intersection with US Highway 301/State Route 73 to the Statesboro East Bypass as the McDougald Memorial Parkway.
- Part IX: Dedicates the portion of Interstate 85 in Troup County from Exit 2 to Exit 18 as the Ray C. Anderson Memorial Highway.
- Part X: Dedicates the intersection of State Route 237 at Cheshire Bridge in Fulton County as the Judge Arthur M. Kaplan Memorial Intersection.
- Part XI: Dedicates the intersection of Highway 53 and Perimeter Road in Dawsonville as the Kenneth Webster Stewart, III Memorial Intersection.
- Part XII: Dedicates the bridge on State Route 53 over the Etowah River in Dawson County as the Marcus Byrd Memorial Bridge.
- Part XIII: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 67 in Jenkins County from the southernmost point of the Ogeechee River Bridges to its intersection with Ga. 121 as the Albert Sidney "Sid" Newton Memorial Highway.
- Part XIV: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 122 in Lanier County that runs beside Banks Lake from the City of Lakeland to the Lowndes County line as the Governor Eurith Dickinson "Ed" Rivers Memorial Highway.
- Part XV: Dedicates the portion of Ga. 107 from Ga. 90/Ga. 11 in Fitzgerald to U.S. Highway 319 as the M.L.K., Jr. Memorial Highway.
- Part XVI: Dedicates the bridge at the intersection of Interstate 75 and Russell Parkway in Peach County as the C.H. "Bud" Sledge Memorial Bridge.
- Part XVII: Dedicates the portion of State Route 12/U.S. Route 278 in Newton County from .7 miles south of Interstate Route 20 at Exit 101 to the Walton County line north of Interstate Route 20 as the Stanton Springs Parkway.
- Part XVIII: Dedicates the bridge on State Route 99 over Interstate 95 in Glynn County as the Johnny "Eric" Purvis Memorial Bridge.
- Part XIX: Dedicates the bridge over Patsiliga Creek on State Route 137 near Fickling Mill Dam in Taylor County as the Olief Wainwright Memorial Bridge.
- Part XX: Dedicates the bridge on State Route 85 Alternate over the Railroad tracks in the city of Warm Springs in Meriwether County as the Eleanor D. Roosevelt Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXI: Dedicates the portion of Interstate 75 where it merges with Interstate 85 at Exit 242 in Fulton County as the Rodney Mims Cook Memorial Highway.
- Part XXII: Dedicates the portion of State Route 76 in Cook County from 4th Street in Adel to the Brooks County line as the United States Army Staff Sergeant Briand T. Williams Memorial Highway.
- Part XXIII: Dedicates the portion of Georgia Highway 135 in Berrien County from its intersection with Georgia Highway 76 to Georgia Highway 168 as the Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Rowan Memorial Highway.
- Part XXIV: Dedicates the portion of U.S. Route 341 from its intersection with Ga. 74 in Monroe County through Crawford and Peach Counties until it connects with U.S. Route 41 and the portion of U.S. Route 41 from the northernmost point of Houston County to the Florida state line as the Georgia Grown Trail: 341/41.
- Part XXV: Dedicates the portion of State Route 88 in the city limits of Keysville in Burke County as the Mayor Emma Gresham Highway.

- Part XXVI: Dedicates the interchange of Interstate 475 at Bolingbroke in Monroe County as the Veterans Memorial Interchange.
- Part XXVII: Dedicates the bridge at Interstate 20 and Lewiston Road in Columbia County as the Lieutenant General Robert E. Gray Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXVIII: Dedicates the bridge on State Route 515 over the Georgia Northeastern Railroad at milepost 2.4 in Fannin County as the Robert K. Ballew Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXIX: Dedicates the portion of State Route 92 in southern Fulton County from U.S. Route 29 (Roosevelt Highway) to the Douglas County line as the George Duke Beasley Memorial Highway.
- Part XXX: Renames the U.S. 82 bridge over Big Creek, .7 miles from Schlatterville and 3.1 miles from Hoboken West in Brantley County as the Charles E. Hickox Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXXI: Dedicates the southbound bridge on State Route 3 over Whitewater Creek in Taylor County as the William Eugene Bone Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXXII: Dedicates the northbound bridge on State Route 3 over Whitewater Creek in Taylor County as the J. Ran Cooper Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXXIII: Dedicates the southbound bridge on State Route 3 over Cedar Creek in Taylor County as the Reginald S. Carter, Sr., Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXXIV: Dedicates the bridge on State Route 515 over Rock Creek in Gilmer County as the Rettie and Ewiel E. Hice, Sr., Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXXV: Dedicates the bridge on State Route 5 over the Toccoa River in Fannin County as the William T. "Boss" Mull Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXXVI: Dedicates the bridge on State Route 166 over Anneewakee Creek in Douglas County as the Private First Class Melvin Johnson Memorial Bridge.
- Part XXXVII: Dedicates the portion of State Route 166 in Carroll County from State Route 100 to its intersection with Garrett Circle as the Col. L.E. Witt, Jr., Memorial Highway.
- Part XXXVIII: Dedicates the portion of Interstate 95 in Liberty County from Exit 76 north to the Bryan County line as the Joe E. Brown Memorial Highway.
- Part XXXIX: Dedicates the corridor of State Route 53 from the Gordon County line to the city limits of Rome as the Shannon Industrial Parkway.
- Part XL: Dedicates the portion of U.S. Route 19 in Union County from its intersection with State Route 515 to the North Carolina line as the Jack Collin Lance, Sr. Memorial Highway.
- Part XLI: Dedicates the intersection of Ga. 341 and Ga. 193 in Walker County as the Captain Larry S. Simmons Memorial Intersection.
- Part XLII: Dedicates the intersection of State Route 236/Hugh Howell Road and Mountain Industrial Boulevard in DeKalb County as the Dr. M. Bobbie Bailey Intersection.
- Part XLIII: Dedicates the portion of State Route 92 in Cobb County from its intersection with Interstate 75 to the Paulding County line as the Kip Klein Memorial Highway.
- Part XLIV: Dedicates the U.S. Route 1 Bypass in the City of Wadley in Jefferson County as the Billy Alonzo Johnson Highway.
- Part XLV: Dedicates the intersection of Ga. 2 and Pine Grove Road in Catoosa County as the P.F.C. Michael Lee Dotson Memorial Intersection.
- Part XLVI: Dedicates the bridge on State Route 14 at the State Route 14 Connector in the Red Oak Community of Fulton County as the Marquis Deon Grissom Bridge.
- Part XLVII: Dedicates the portion of Interstate 95 in Liberty County from Exit 76 to the McIntosh County line as the R.V. "Bobby" Sikes Overpass.
- Part XLVIII: Dedicates the bridge on State Route 243 over Beaver Creek in Wilkinson County as the O.L. "Red" Brooks Memorial Bridge.
- Part XLIX: Dedicates the portion of State Route 44 from the southern city limits along Whitehall and Mercer Streets to the intersection with U.S. 78 (North Pass) as the Reverend G.L. Avery Memorial Highway.
- Part L: Dedicates the portion of State Route 79 in Lincoln County from the bridge over Soap Creek to the Goshen community as the Thomas Watson Cullars Memorial Highway.
- Part LI: Dedicates the bridge on Canton Connector at Exit 267 over Interstate 75 in Cobb County as the Otis A. Brumby, Jr. Memorial Bridge.
- Part LII: Dedicates the intersection of State Route 341 and Mission Ridge Road in Walker County as the P.F.C. Roger Eugene Dorsey Memorial Intersection.
- Part LIII: Dedicates the portion of State Route 347 from Interstate 985 East to State Route 211 as Friendship Road; dedicates the portion of State Route 347 from its westernmost point on the shores of Lake Lanier east to Interstate 985 as Lake Lanier Islands Parkway; dedicates the portion of State Route 211 from Interstate 85 north to State Route 53 as the Chateau Elan Parkway.

HR 1573

Joint Study Committee on Critical Transportation Infrastructure Funding; create

**Rep. Jay Roberts of the 155th
House Committee on Transportation**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1573 creates a joint study committee of 16 members for the purpose of identifying new sources and methods of funding for critical transportation infrastructure needs. The committee will include the chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Committees, who will serve as co-chairs. The presiding officers of each chamber will appoint three legislative members and one citizen member. Other members include the chairpersons of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the president and CEO of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce or designee, the president and CEO of the Metro-Atlanta Chamber of Commerce or designee, the executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, and the executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association. The committee is authorized for eight days and will make recommendations to the legislature by November 30, 2014.

HR 1585

County and municipal officials; display American flag at courthouses and other government buildings; urge

**Rep. Josh Clark of the 98th
House Committee on Governmental Affairs**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1585 urges local governments to display the American flag in their respective government buildings.

HR 1599

Joint Study Committee on the Georgia Alcoholic Beverage Code; create

**Rep. Howard Maxwell of the 17th
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1599 creates the House Study Committee on the Georgia Alcoholic Beverage Code. Currently, there are undefined terms, outdated terminology, obsolete provisions, and inconsistent references in the Georgia Alcoholic Beverage Code. The study committee will be composed of five members. The committee will study and review the conditions, needs, issues, and problems related to the Georgia Alcoholic Beverage Code.

HR 1601

House Georgia-Based Film and Post-Production Study Committee; create

**Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th
House Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution creates the House Georgia-Based Film and Post-Production Study Committee to assess the impact of film and post production industries and their significant contributions to the economy and welfare of Georgia.

HR 1655

Congress; protect and defend the Constitution of the United States; request

**Rep. Tom Kirby of the 114th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1655 requests that Congress protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, specifically informing the United States Congress that, pursuant to the Tenth Amendment, Congress has no authority to infringe on the people's Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, and expresses the State of Georgia's commitment to protecting the rights of its citizens against any attempt to curtail those rights.

HR 1722

House Study Committee on Medical Education; create

**Rep. Butch Parrish of the 158th
House Committee on Higher Education**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation creates the House Study Committee on Medical Education, which will be composed of seven members of the House of Representatives who are appointed by the Speaker. The committee will identify ways to bolster medical education in the state in order to retain more educated practitioners.

HR 1723

House Study Committee on Licensing and Inspection of Child Welfare Providers; create

**Rep. Andrew Welch of the 110th
House Committee on Juvenile Justice**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1723 creates the House Study Committee on Licensing and Inspection of Child Welfare Providers to comprehensively review Georgia's existing licensing, inspection, and placement processes for public and private child welfare providers in order to determine whether such processes are duplicative or overly burdensome, effective, and consistent. Additionally, the committee will address the important state interest in the safety of children by identifying unnecessary state interference in routine operations and by making allowances for the operations of providers with strong performance records.

The resolution also calls for a comprehensive review of the privatization of foster care.

HR 1724

Sustainable Forestry Initiative; state-wide support for sustainable forest certification; encourage

**Rep. Chuck Williams of the 119th
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution encourages state-wide support for sustainable forest certification and the efforts of Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

HR 1805

House Study Committee on DUI Recidivism and Driver's License Suspensions and Reinstatements; create

**Rep. Alan Powell of the 32nd
House Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security**

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1805 creates the House Study Committee on Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Recidivism and Driver's License Suspensions and Reinstatements. The committee will be composed of five members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House. The committee shall study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems related to recidivism of driving under the influence.

HR 1805 also creates the House Study Committee on For-Hire Transportation Services. This committee will be composed of five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House. The committee will study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems related to for-hire transportation services in order to protect the traveling public and ensure the safety of persons using such transportation services.

HR 1828

House Study Committee on Aviation and Jobs; create

Rep. Jimmy Pruett of the 149th

House Committee on State Planning & Community Affairs

Final Bill Summary:

House Resolution 1828 creates the House Study Committee on Aviation and Jobs. The committee will consist of five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The committee will study the aviation employment field in order to provide suggestions for any actions that may increase this job sector's positive impact on Georgia's economy.

SB 23

"Stacey Nicole English Act"; aid in the location of missing persons; incapacitated due to medical conditions; establish

Sen. Gail Davenport of the 44th

House Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 23 establishes the 'Stacey Nicole English Act' which prohibits law enforcement agencies from mandating a minimum waiting period for filing a missing persons report with the response to the report remaining at the discretion of the law enforcement agency. The legislation defines a "medically endangered person" and adds such persons to the provisions of the 'Mattie's Call Act.' In the event that a state-wide alert is activated, the law enforcement agencies are not prohibited from taking additional measures in response to the receipt of the missing persons report. An additional prohibition of a minimum waiting period for the activation of an alert or before a report may be given to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation is at the discretion of its director. In determining whether to activate the alert, the director and the requesting law enforcement agency are required to take into account the known medical condition of the missing person if the medical condition could reasonably be considered a cause for the inability to locate the person. If such condition may be immediately life-threatening or incapacitating, the director or other authorized person and the requesting law enforcement official shall be authorized to initiate and request a state-wide endangered person advisory. Finally, this legislation requires the commissioner to provide a registration applicant the opportunity to designate an alternative emergency contact telephone number that shall be made available to a law enforcement officer making a vehicle tag inquiry in the course of conducting official law enforcement business.

SB 60

General Assembly; all official communications; officers, members, or employees; electronic format

Sen. Bill Heath of the 31st

House Committee on Governmental Affairs

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 60 provides that whenever an official written communication is sent to officers, members, or employees of the General Assembly such communication shall be sent electronically. The electronic form must be such that it can be retained and printed by the end user.

SB 65

Mental Health; authorize licensed professional counselor to perform certain acts; secure certification

Sen. Renee Unterman of the 45th

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 65 allows licensed professional counselors to admit a person for involuntary emergency evaluation of mental illness under Code Section 37-3-41. This bill also allows licensed professional counselors to admit a person for involuntary treatment for alcohol or drug abuse under Code Section 37-7-41. This legislation provides for automatic repeal in two years.

SB 98

"Federal Abortion Mandate Opt-out Act"

**Sen. Judson Hill of the 32nd
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 98 provides that the State Health Benefit Plan shall not cover abortion services unless they are deemed to be “medically necessary”, as defined in the bill. Further, it provides that should Georgia establish a health insurance exchange as part of the ‘Affordable Care Act’, abortion services would not be covered under those plans. The same exemption for procedures deemed to be medically necessary exists in this provision as well.

SB 117

Blasting or Excavating Near Utility Facilities; revise/add definitions

**Sen. Rick Jeffares of the 17th
House Committee on Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 117, also known as the “Call Before You Dig” bill, is a statute created to amend Chapter 9 of Title 25 of the O.C.G.A. The ‘Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act’ (GUFPA) was originally established to protect the underground utility infrastructure of Georgia. It was enacted by the General Assembly in July 2000 to provide for the protection of the buried utility facility infrastructure within the State of Georgia. GUFPA mandates that, before starting any mechanized digging or excavation work, persons must contact Georgia 811 at least 48 hours, but no more than 10 working days in advance to have utility lines marked. Additionally, this new legislation makes changes to existing law by changing the definitions for “excavation,” “farming activities,” “white lining,” and “milling.”

SB 125

Liability of Owners/Occupier of Land; codify the duty of a possessor of land to a trespasser against harm

**Sen. Jesse Stone of the 23rd
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 125 codifies the common-law standard that a possessor of land has no duty of care to a trespasser except to refrain from willfully or wantonly injuring such trespasser. The bill states that it does not alter the common-law doctrine of attractive nuisance in effect as of January 1, 2014.

SB 128

Professional Counselors; revise definitions relating to marriage and family therapy

**Sen. Fran Millar of the 40th
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

SB 128 revises the scope of practice definition of “marriage and family therapy” to include the diagnoses of emotional and mental problems and conditions. It also names the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education as the national accrediting agency for marriage and family therapy education as recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

SB 134

Controlled Substances; revise the definition of "prescriber"

**Sen. Earl "Buddy" Carter of the 1st
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

SB 134 revises the definition of 'dispenser' and 'prescriber' as it relates to controlled substances to include those licensed by this state or regulated under the laws of any other state or territory of the United States.

SB 187

State Government; provide exemption for the board of commissioners of Georgia Student Finance Commission; board of directors

**Sen. Judson Hill of the 32nd
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 187 creates the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Board where the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council serves as that board in promulgating rules and regulations along with determining the outcome of claims covered under Title 17. The bill also increases the time frame to file a claim with the board to three years. The bill expands the persons eligible for awards to include those who have died, been seriously injured physically or emotionally, or suffer financial hardship by being either present or the victim during the commission of a crime. Also, if a forensic interview is conducted on a person less than 18 years of age, or who has a developmental disability, the board may pay the cost of such interview in an amount it determines by the board.

SB 206

Interstate Cooperation; provide for delegation from the State of Georgia to certain conventions

**Sen. Bill Cowsert of the 46th
House Committee on Interstate Cooperation**

Final Bill Summary:

The Georgia Code is amended to add a new Code section that provides for the appointment of seven delegates when an U.S. Article V convention is called where each state of the U.S. has one vote. The speaker of the House, president of the Senate, and the governor each appoint two delegates, and a final delegate shall be chosen by an affirmative vote by four out of the six appointed delegates.

No delegate is authorized to vote on an unauthorized Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and will take an oath not to do so. If a delegate votes on an unauthorized Amendment, the delegate may be removed by a majority vote by the other delegates.

Delegates will be appointed only when each state has one equal vote in such convention. The term of the delegates shall be limited to the duration of the particular Article V convention. This shall be effective immediately after passage for the 2013-2014 biennium by means of a resolution for the purpose of proposing one or more amendments to the U.S. Constitution. If said resolution is not adopted, this Act will not be effective and will stand repealed as of January 1, 2015.

SB 207

Probation of first offenders; person disqualified from employment when discharged as felony offender; add private home care providers to list

**Sen. John Albers of the 56th
House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 207 adds to the "long-term care facility" definition by including private home care providers in the list of covered entities relating to the long-term care ombudsman program, thus making private home care providers subject to regulation and licensure by the Department of Community Health.

SB 213

"Flint River Drought Protection Act"; clarify legislative intent; revise definitions; expand programs

**Sen. Ross Tolleson of the 20th
House Committee on Agriculture & Consumer Affairs**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill makes numerous changes to the 'Flint River Drought Protection Act.'

O.C.G.A. 12-5-542, the definitions section of the act, is amended in a number of ways. The bill extends the "acceptable Flint River basin stream flows" definition to include the Flint River's tributaries; however, those tributaries do not include field drainage systems, wet weather ditches, or any other water body in which the channel is located above the ground-water table year round, for which runoff

from precipitation is the primary source of water flow, or for which ground water is not a source of water flow. The bill also amends the "affected area" definition by including only stream flow or drainage going into Spring Creek, Ichawaynochaway Creek, Kinchafoonee Creek, and Mucklee Creek. The bill defines "irrigation efficiency" as "the percentage of the total amount of water withdrawn from a source which is beneficially used to meet crop water requirements or for other agronomic practices in accordance with applicable best management practices."

Second, the bill adds a new paragraph to O.C.G.A. 12-5-544 that requires the conducting of and participation in studies of Flint River basin water resources management.

Third, the bill adds drought prediction language that allows for the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to make drought predictions based on the Palmer Drought Severity Index.

Fourth, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture and the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to coordinate with the EPD to enhance agricultural water use efficiencies. Additionally, the bill allows for the EPD Director to modify agricultural surface and ground water permits within the affected area to require irrigation efficiencies of eighty percent or greater by 2020. The bill also states that the minimum efficiency rate for mobile irrigation systems and solid-set irrigation sprinklers applying water withdrawn pursuant to new permits shall be at least 60 percent. Further, new permits must have at least an 80 percent irrigation efficiency.

Fifth, the bill addresses augmentation projects. It defines "permittee" as anyone holding a valid surface water withdrawal permit within the "affected area". It requires the EPD director to notify such permittees downstream of a state-funded augmentation project, and the director may direct the permittee to let the flow provided by the augmentation project pass his or her point of withdrawal. The director's notification must be accompanied by an opportunity for a hearing, which will occur within five business days of the director's receipt of the hearing petition. The hearing will be before an administrative law judge. The director must modify, reverse, or continue actions based upon the judge's findings.

Finally, the bill states that nothing in the Code section provides authority for interbasin transfers.

SB 235

Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund; change the definition of the term "firefighter"; creditable service

**Sen. John Albers of the 56th
House Committee on Retirement**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill changes the definition of "firefighter" to a permanent, compensated employee of a fire department who works at least 1,040 hours a year as a firefighter. This bill also changes the definition of "part-time employment" as working less than 40 hours a week but at least 1,040 hours a year. Lastly, this bill allows part-time firefighters to receive creditable service for time served between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2014. This is a fiscal retirement bill with no cost to the state.

SB 240

Alcoholic Beverages; provide for the licensing of the production of distilled spirits; educational purposes by non-profit museums

**Sen. Hunter Hill of the 6th
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 240 allows non-profit museums to produce distilled spirits upon payment of an annual \$100 occupational license tax. The non-profit museum cannot produce more than 800 liters of distilled spirits each year. Distilled spirits can only be used for complimentary samples to guests of legal age who have completed a museum tour. All distilled spirits must be stored and aged only on the premises and may not be transported unless through approved disposal methods. Distilled spirits cannot be sold to any person or entity. All applicants for the non-profit distiller license must file a bond with the commissioner of revenue; however, no bond shall be filed for the initial application or the annual renewal application of a non-profit distiller license.

SB 273

Public Health, Dept. of; required to establish the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to review maternal deaths

**Sen. Dean Burke of the 11th
House Committee on Health & Human Services**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 273 requires the Department of Public Health to establish a Maternal Mortality Review Committee to study and develop strategies to prevent maternal death. The bill requires health care providers, health care facilities and pharmacies to provide the committee with reasonable access to relevant medical records. These records will not be admissible as evidence in any action of any kind in court. All medical records and findings of the committee shall be confidential.

SB 274

Capitol Arts Standards Commission; designation of areas within capitol museum; Georgia Capitol Agricultural History Museum areas

**Sen. Valencia Seay of the 34th
House Committee on State Properties**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 274 amends Part 2 of Article 4 of Chapter 13 of Title 45 of O.C.G.A. relating to the Capitol Arts Standards Commission. The revision states that the Capitol Arts Standards Commission, in cooperation with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Commission on the Preservation of the State Capitol, shall designate areas within the Capitol Museum as Georgia Capitol Agricultural History Museum areas. The Capitol Arts Standards Commission may accept gifts and donations for the purpose of providing for and maintaining capitol artwork for the Georgia Capitol Agricultural History Museum areas.

SB 276

State Government; provide that Georgia shall be a "Purple Heart State"

**Sen. Ed Harbison of the 15th
House Committee on Defense & Veterans Affairs**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation establishes Georgia as a "Purple Heart State" to honor combat wounded veterans.

SB 281 – VETO

State Employees; require a high deductible health care plan with health savings account; offered as an option

**Sen. Judson Hill of the 32nd
House Committee on Insurance**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 281 requires that the State Health Benefit Plan offer a high deductible plan that includes a health savings account among its health plan options.

SB 282

Georgia Child Support Commission; enact provisions; relating to child support and enforcement of child support orders

**Sen. Chuck Hufstetler of the 52nd
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 282 clarifies language, expands definitions, and enacts a few substantive changes to child support law. The bill incorporates veterans' disability benefits into the definition of "income" for purposes of child support, and removes the limitations on who may

request a low-income deviation. While the change expands those who would qualify for a possible income deviation, even if the court rules there is economic hardship, the minimum child support cannot be less than \$100 for one child, and increasing in \$50 increments per additional child.

The bill authorizes the Division of Child Support Services to prepare worksheets if neither parent prepares them. The bill further changes the review period from two to four years for the basic child support obligation table.

SB 286

Alcoholic Beverages; change the maximum percent by volume of wine; change definitions; authorize wineries to buy and use certain products

**Sen. Jack Murphy of the 27th
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 286 revises the definition of “distilled spirits” to mean any alcoholic beverage containing more than 24 percent alcohol by volume. This bill also revises the definitions of “fortified wine,” “wine,” and “dessert wine” to mean any alcoholic beverage containing not more than 24 percent alcohol by volume, and it additionally stipulates that the definition of “manufacturer” shall not include those individuals who blend wine with distilled spirits to produce fortified wine. SB 286 allows wineries to purchase distilled spirits directly from manufacturers and blend it with wine manufactured by the winery to produce fortified wine.

SB 288

Education; provide no high school which receives funding under the "Quality Basic Education Act"; shall participate in/or sponsor interscholastic sport events conducted by any athletic association

**Sen. Charlie Bethel of the 54th
House Committee on Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 288 amends the 'Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act' to require that any athletic association that provides organization, sanction, schedule, or rules for interscholastic athletic events shall publish an annual financial report containing the entity's assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The legislation also reconstitutes the Joint High School Athletics Overview Committee as a committee of the General Assembly, and describes its composition, powers, duties, and administrative procedures.

SB 290

Dog Ownership; allow local governments to confer dog control authority upon multiple individuals

**Sen. Dean Burke of the 11th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 290 allows for the designation of multiple dog control officers in each local government.

The bill changes the length of time to seven days of the date shown on the notice within which an owner of a dog determined to be vicious is entitled to a hearing from the authority on the dog control officer's determination. If no authority has been established for the jurisdiction, the hearing will be in the probate court of the jurisdiction where the dog was found. If the owner of a dog determined to be dangerous or vicious cannot be located within 10 days of the dog's determination as such, the dog may be placed in an animal shelter or humanely euthanized.

The bill provides that an owner whose dog has been confiscated in error (as determined by a dog control officer, authority, or probate court) is not required to pay the costs associated with the dog's confiscation and housing, nor prove compliance with the other requirements of the article. If the owner does not comply with all the requirements of the article within 14 days of the date of confiscation, the dog will be placed in an animal shelter or euthanized.

The bill also authorizes animal shelters to use nonsurgical sterilization on male dogs.

The bill authorizes probate courts to hear cases involving violations of responsible dog ownership laws and to impose civil (other than euthanasia) and criminal penalties for such violations. The bill directs appeals of decisions by animal control boards or of local boards of

health to probate courts if all costs have been paid in the tribunal below (unless an affidavit of indigence is filed), but in no case will a probate court be permitted to dismiss an appeal for nonpayment unless the appellant fails to comply with the probate court's direction to pay such costs. Filing of this notice of appeal acts as a supersedeas bond, but the probate court upon motion can require good security, unless the appellant files an affidavit of indigency.

SB 296

State Park Authority; revise the powers and responsibilities

**Sen. Ross Tolleson of the 20th
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill provides definitions for “developed land” and “undeveloped land”. It also states that the Jekyll Island Authority (the authority) is empowered to convert no more than 1,675 acres of the total land area of Jekyll Island into developed land. The 1,597 acres of Jekyll Island that have been subdivided, leased, or improved according to the 2013 master plan as of January 1, 2014, is deemed as already converted to developed land. Additionally, the bill sets out the only ways that undeveloped land shall be converted to developed land after July 1, 2014, which are: twelve acres solely for the expansion of the existing campground; forty-six acres solely for public health, safety, or recreation, which excludes residential and commercial development; and, twenty acres for unrestricted uses.

The authority shall not in any way sell or otherwise dispose of any riparian rights, and the Jekyll Island beach areas shall be kept free and open for public use.

The portion of the island lying south of 31 degrees, 1 minute, 34 seconds north latitude must be retained as undeveloped area, and the authority shall not enter into, renew, or extend any agreement or otherwise take any action regarding said portion of the island on or after May 30, 2007, except as otherwise provided. Improvements on this portion of the island made prior to May 30, 2007 shall not require removal. Upon the expiration or termination of any lease of a single-family residence lot on this space, the authority may again lease such lot to the same or another lessee for a single-family or noncommercial purpose, or may set it aside for public use, but the lot shall not be further subdivided or leased for any multi-family residence or commercial use.

The Jekyll Island 4-H center and soccer complex may continue to be used as such under an extension or renewal of an existing lease or under a new lease. This bill does not prohibit the construction and use of public bicycle trails, public nature trails, or public picnic areas on the southern portion of the island by the authority. This subparagraph shall not be applied to impair the obligation of any valid contract entered into prior to May 30, 2007.

SB 297

Elections; campaign contributions; filing of notices of intention to accept campaign contributions by county/municipal candidates

**Sen. Butch Miller of the 49th
House Committee on Rules**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 297 makes some changes to local elections and reporting requirements by requiring candidates make the declaration of intention to accept campaign contributions to the local election official. It also changes the time frame for which an affidavit to not accept funds is valid from just a calendar year to an election cycle so that the reports do not have to be filed each year.

SB 298

License Plates; submission of a doctor's prescription; application for a special parking decal for persons with disabilities in lieu of an affidavit; notary public not available

**Sen. Jack Murphy of the 27th
House Committee on Motor Vehicles**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 298 removes the requirement that physician prescribed disabled parking permits be notarized.

It provides that a prosecuting attorney can choose to allow a person to complete a defensive driving course as part of a pretrial diversion program; however, the courses must be certified or meeting the rules and regulations of the Department of Driver Services.

Those convicted for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol shall be required to complete a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program certified by Department of Driver Services' within 120 days after conviction.

Approved clinics for defensive driving courses must charge \$100. The bill requires that certified DUI or Drug Use Risk Reduction Programs require a risk assessment component to be performed before the program administers the intervention component of the program. The program is allowed to include a clinical evaluation after individual completes the risk assessment and intervention services. Certified DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Programs must charge \$100 for the assessment component and \$235 for the intervention component.

A person must have a valid driver's license to operate a motor vehicle in Georgia. If the person is a resident of Georgia for 30 days, then the person must obtain a valid license. If a person is found driving with a Georgia license that has expired, the person is guilty of driving with an expired license unless the license has been expired for less than 31 days at the time of the offense and he or she produces a valid license in court; however, if the person is driving without a valid driver's license in his or her possession but he or she has a valid driver's license, then Code Section 40-5-29 shall apply and the person must pay a \$10 fine if convicted. This does not include persons driving with suspended or revoked licenses.

It provides for a free class E or F driver's license to certified volunteer fireman.

SB 299

Natural Resources; provide flexibility for establishing watershed protection standards

Sen. Steve Gooch of the 51st

House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment

Final Bill Summary:

This bill requires local governments to submit for approval by the Environmental Protection Division a watershed protection plan that includes watershed protection standards and procedures. The bill also states that the standards and procedures for buffer areas along streams and reservoirs must comply with O.C.G.A. 12-2-8(b) and O.C.G.A. 12-7-6.

SB 301

Public School Facilities; disallow prohibitions on wood construction in public schools if in compliance with state minimum standard codes

Sen. Fran Millar of the 40th

House Committee on State Properties

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 301 amends Code Section 20-2-261, relating to minimum facility requirements for public school facilities, to allow wood construction that is in compliance with the state minimum standards codes as defined in paragraph (9) of Code Section 8-2-20.

SB 304

Continuing Care Providers and Facilities; provide for continuing care at home; define certain terms

Sen. Jesse Stone of the 23rd

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Final Bill Summary:

SB 304 expands the definitions of "continuing care," "limited continuing care," and "residential unit" to include assisted living communities. The bill also stipulates that "nursing care" includes skilled or intermediate nursing services and personal care services. The bill adds a definition for "resident-owned living unit" which is a residence that is a component part of a facility in which the resident has an individual real property ownership interest.

SB 304 allows providers who have obtained proper authority and approval to offer continuing care at resident-owned living units. All facilities providing this care shall make their current disclosure statements accessible to their residents and to the general public.

SB 305

Fire Protection and Safety; written notification prior to the denial of a permit; buildings/structures required to meet the state minimum fire safety standards

**Sen. Lindsey Tippins of the 37th
House Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 305 defines a "written notification" as a notice citing the specific sections of the applicable codes related to fire and other hazards to persons and property that have been violated, while also describing where and how the design/construction is noncompliant with those codes. Under this bill, the state fire marshal, proper local fire marshal, state inspector, or designated code official may deny a permit/request for a certificate of occupancy or a certificate of completion if they determine that the building construction or plans do not comply with such applicable codes.

SB 307

Town of Thunderbolt; provide for homestead exemption; municipal purposes

**Sen. Earl "Buddy" Carter of the 1st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from the Town of Thunderbolt ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that town who are 65 years of age or older and whose income does not exceed \$30,000.

SB 318

Alcoholic Beverages; allow for local authorization/regulation of sale for consumption on the premises on Sundays; celebration of St. Patrick's Day

**Sen. Lester Jackson of the 2nd
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 318 allows the sale of alcoholic beverages for on premise consumption on a Sunday if the St. Patrick's Day holiday falls on that day of the week.

SB 320

Veterans Court Divisions; create

**Sen. Ed Harbison of the 15th
House Committee on Defense & Veterans Affairs**

Final Bill Summary:

This legislation seeks to create a specialized court for veterans who have entered the court system. At the judge's discretion for lesser offenses, a case may be referred to a veterans court. The legislation calls for each jurisdiction establishing a veterans court division to develop a planning group to assemble a work plan for the courts. Members of the planning group are to include: judges, prosecuting attorneys, sheriffs or their designees, public defenders, probation officers, and representatives of services to assist veterans. "Veterans treatment program" is defined in the Code relating to the review of criminal records, so that a criminal record will not appear on the veteran's criminal history following the successful completion of the treatment program.

SB 322

Game and Fish; provide protection for certain wildlife habitats

**Sen. Tyler Harper of the 7th
House Committee on Game, Fish, & Parks**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 322 amends Code Section 27-1-30, relating to prohibitions on disturbing or destroying wildlife habitats, to repeal the exclusion of poisonous snakes.

SB 324

Peace Officers; harmonize definitions; employed or appointed by the Department of Juvenile Justice regarding their duties

**Sen. Jesse Stone of the 23rd
House Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 324 harmonizes various definitions relating to peace officers employed or appointed by the Department of Juvenile Justice by adding personnel who are authorized to exercise the power of supervision of delinquent children under intensive supervision in the community to the statutory definitions of: peace officers; law enforcement officers within the Georgia State Indemnification Fund; and law enforcement officers under the Temporary Disability Compensation Program. The bill also provides the Department of Juvenile Justice with the authority to arm its officials with firearms for safety purposes.

SB 325

Fire and Protection Safety; regulation of fire protection sprinkler contractors, fire extinguisher and suppression systems; provisions

**Sen. John Albers of the 56th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 325 requires the Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner (commissioner) to give written notice to any person who violates fire protection sprinkler contracting laws and to wait a reasonable period of time after issuing such notice before a cease and desist order may be issued and a fine may be imposed. The bill provides that the failure of an applicant for a license, certificate, or permit to comply with fire protection and safety laws can constitute grounds for refusing such person's application. The bill also authorizes the commissioner to bring a civil action to enjoin violations of any provision of fire protection sprinkler contracting laws or of any rule, regulation, or order issued by the commissioner under such laws. The bill changes the fee schedule for violations of fire protection sprinkler laws by removing the possibility of imposition of a daily fine for a persistent violation after a person's third offense.

The bill establishes that the commissioner may refuse applications and may decline to renew certificates or licenses if a holder or applicant is engaged in certain enumerated activities. The bill adds to the list of these enumerated activities, and requires the commissioner to refuse to issue a new license or certificate if he or she finds that the circumstance(s) for which the license or certificate was previously suspended or revoked still exist or are likely to recur.

The bill requires the commissioner to give written notice to any person who violates fire extinguisher and suppression system laws and to wait a reasonable period of time after issuing such notice before a cease and desist order may be issued and a fine may be imposed. The bill provides that the failure of an applicant for a license, certificate, or permit to comply with fire protection and safety laws can constitute grounds for refusing the application. The bill also authorizes the commissioner to bring a civil action to enjoin violations of any provision of fire extinguisher and suppression system laws or of any rule, regulation, or order issued by the commissioner under such laws. The bill changes the fee schedule for violations of fire extinguisher and suppression system laws by removing the possibility of imposition of a daily fine for a persistent violation after a person's third offense.

SB 326 - VETO

Private Colleges and Universities Authority; authorize the authority to meet by teleconference and other methods permitted by law

**Sen. Rick Jeffares of the 17th
House Committee on Higher Education**

Final Bill Summary:

SB 326 changes language relating to the Private Colleges and Universities Authority to reflect a gender neutral chairperson and also adds that members can join by teleconference and other means permitted by law to count towards a majority of members present. Members of a board, committee, commission, or other body subject to Code Section 45-7-21 who are not physically present at a

meeting will not receive a daily expense allowance. This legislation also provides that the Board of Regents cannot enter into any new capital lease obligations if the annual aggregate capital lease exceeds seven percent of the total revenue of the University System of Georgia.

SB 333

Natural Resources Dept.; establish that persons are not aggrieved by listings on the hazardous site inventory

**Sen. Ross Tolleson of the 20th
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment**

Final Bill Summary:

The bill states that any person aggrieved or adversely affected by a listing on the hazardous site inventory after July 1, 2014, shall be entitled to a hearing as provided in O.C.G.A. 12-8-73.

SB 336

Cosmetologists; provide fines imposed by State Board of Cosmetology for certain violations; not exceed certain specified amounts

**Sen. William Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

SB 336 allows individuals of at least 16 years of age to learn the occupations of cosmetology, hair design, esthetics, and nail care.

SB 336 states that the Board of Cosmetology has the power to impose a maximum fine of \$500 for each violation of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-10-15; however, the bill stipulates that the board cannot impose a fine of more than \$25 for the first violation, more than \$75 for a second violation, nor more than \$300 for each subsequent violation.

SB 337

Barbers; provide fines imposed by State Board of Barbers for certain violations; not exceed certain specified amounts

**Sen. William Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd
House Committee on Regulated Industries**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 337 states that the Board of Barbers has the power to impose a maximum fine of \$500 for each violation of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-7-23; however, the bill stipulates that the board cannot impose a fine of more than \$25 for the first violation, more than \$75 for a second violation, nor more than \$300 for each subsequent violation.

SB 339

Retirement and Pension; revise, modernize, correct errors/omissions in said title; Code Revision Commission

**Sen. Jesse Stone of the 23rd
House Committee on Retirement**

Final Bill Summary:

This bill revises O.C.G.A. 47-2-295.1, 47-17-1, and 47-23-1 relating to the Employees' Retirement System, the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund, and the Judicial Retirement System. Specifically, SB 339 updates cross references in the Code relating to those retirement systems relating juvenile proceedings. This is a nonfiscal retirement bill.

SB 340

Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise, modernize, correct errors; reenact statutory portion of said Code

**Sen. Jesse Stone of the 23rd
House Committee on Code Revision**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 340 amends the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, with the purpose to revise, modernize, and correct errors or omissions in the Code. The bill reflects the work of the Code Revision Commission to repeal portions of the Code which have become obsolete, declared unconstitutional, or preempted or superseded by subsequent laws. Lastly, the bill provides for other matters relating to revision, reenactment, and publication of the Code.

SB 341

Probate Courts; clerk's authority to act on uncontested matters; repeal a population provision

**Sen. Jesse Stone of the 23rd
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 341 provides that with regard to uncontested matters, the chief clerk of a probate judge or, if there is no chief clerk, a clerk designated by the judge is empowered to exercise all the jurisdiction of the judge of the probate court, regardless of whether the judge is present. Such chief clerk or designated clerk must have been a member of the State Bar of Georgia for at least three years or have served as a clerk in the probate court for at least five years.

SB 342

Evidence; disclosure of a person's HIV status to certain health care providers

**Sen. Dean Burke of the 11th
House Committee on Health & Human Services**

Final Bill Summary:

SB 342 allows the Department of Public Health to disclose AIDS confidential information regarding a person infected with HIV to a health care provider that is treating that person.

SB 344

Probate Court of Johnson County; authorize to charge a technology fee for civil case filed and criminal fine imposed

**Sen. Jesse Stone of the 23rd
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to authorize the Probate Court of Johnson County to impose and collect a technology fee for each civil case filed and criminal fine imposed.

SB 349

Behavioral Health and Developmental, Dept. of; changes to the powers and duties

Sen. Charlie Bethel of the 54th
House Committee on Governmental Affairs

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 349 amends the powers and duties of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. It establishes governing boards to oversee community service boards (CSBs) and revises the powers and duties of CSBs.

SB 352

Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness; create

Sen. Renee Unterman of the 45th
House Committee on Health & Human Services

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 352 allows the Department of Community Health to award grants to medical-legal partnerships. The bill defines medical-legal partnerships as programs established by a non-profit entity through a written agreement between at least one medical service provider and at least one legal services program. These medical-legal partnerships will provide free legal assistance to income-eligible individuals on matters involving the health of such individuals and their families.

Senate Bill 352 establishes the Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness within the Department of Community Health to develop and implement a program to educate health care providers and the general public about lupus. The council will consist of six members who will serve without compensation. The council will initially investigate the level of education concerning lupus in this state and then develop information on lupus. The council will also develop a directory of lupus-related health care services that will be made available on the department's website. The information gathered by the council may be distributed to the general public, health care facilities, governmental agencies, and other groups based on the availability of funds. Finally, the council may solicit and accept donations, gifts, or grants from the public or private sector.

SB 358

Missing Children Information Center; provide missing child reports for foster children

Sen. John Albers of the 56th
House Committee on Health & Human Services

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 358 stipulates that the following individuals can file a police report for missing children: caretakers, governmental units responsible for the child, and other persons with legal custody of the child.

SB 359

Troup County Airport Authority; repeal

Sen. Joshua McKoon of the 29th
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to repeal an Act creating the Troup County Airport Authority.

SB 361

Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council; create

Sen. Earl "Buddy" Carter of the 1st
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment

Final Bill Summary:

This bill creates the Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council, which will sunset in 2017.

SB 364

Juvenile Code; revise and correct errors or omissions

**Sen. Jesse Stone of the 23rd
House Committee on Juvenile Justice**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 364 revises and corrects errors relating to the Juvenile Code. The purpose is to further the work of the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform as it pertains to minors. The bill expands and cleans up the Code with respect to what constitutes “aggravating circumstances” relating to a parent’s conduct. Also, hours can be included when measuring a period of time to either exercise a privilege or discharge a duty. In addition, the circumstances which determine jurisdiction for the purpose of effectuating supervision or probation is expanded by including children under age 18 when an order has been entered for a child in need service. When terminating a legal parent-child relationship, the rights of a biological father who is not the legal father of the child are to be taken into consideration with respect to exclusive original jurisdiction. Need for discovery shall not constitute good cause for a continuance of a dependency hearing unless the court finds that a party has failed to comply with a discovery order.

The bill also amends the Code with respect to filing a petition for dependency in cases of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, as a condition of acceptance, by requiring the court to endorse that the filing of the petition is in the best interests of the public and the child. “Venue” is also expanded with respect to termination of parental rights to include the county in which: the child legally resides; the child is present when the termination proceeding is commenced; or the acts underlying the petition allegedly occur. Service by publication is streamlined and expanded to include the county of the biological father’s last known address. A complaint alleging that a child is in need of child services is expanded to include any person and the facts alleging why the court has jurisdiction and the reasons why the complaint is in the best interest of the child. Hearings to terminate parental rights must be conducted in accordance with Title 24. Moreover, the only excludible evidence due to privilege in a hearing to terminate parental rights exists under attorney-client relationships and confessions/communications between a priest, rabbi, or ordained minister.

The time frame for a continued custody hearing is reduced to 24 hours after a child is taken into temporary custody and 72 hours after a child is placed in foster care. In making its determination of placement for a child, the court has expanded placement options to include a secure residential or non-secure residential facility that complies with the Code or any other court-approved placement facility. When a child is in custody of child services, and has not been released to such child’s guardian, the time frame for a continued custody hearing is reduced to 72 hours when the child is placed in foster care. Following a continued custody hearing, the time that a court may detain that child is reduced to 24 hours.

At the commencement of a continued custody hearing, the court shall inform the parties of the nature of the allegations, proceedings, possible consequences, and due process rights. If a court finds that a child is in need of services, the final disposition hearing is reduced to within 30 days of the adjudication hearing if the final disposition hearing is not held in conjunction with the adjudication hearing. In relation to a comprehensive service plan or for a mental health plan for a child found unrestorably incompetent to proceed, the child’s inpatient treatment must meet the requirements for civil commitment. The sanctions for failure to obey a summons now apply to all children less than 16 years of age. Principals of the last known school attended by a child must now be notified within 15 days of that child being adjudicated for either class A or B felonies.

With respect to controlled substances, the definition of “solid substance” now includes any substance not in liquid or gas form. The Code regarding the nomination of a testamentary guardian is amended by including extended blood relatives to the notice requirement of the guardianship hearing. Further, any person who receives such notice must file an objection with the court within 10 days and include reasons and facts why the nominated guardian is unfit to serve. The court must conduct a hearing upon the objection within 30 days of receiving such objection.

SB 365

Fair Business Practices Act; enact offender reentry reforms as recommended by the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform

**Sen. Jesse Stone of the 23rd
House Committee on Juvenile Justice**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 365 amends the Code to enact reforms as recommended by the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform as it relates to minors with respect to delinquency proceeding in juvenile court, suspension of driver’s licenses for certain drug offenses, the Board and Department of Corrections, and general tort provisions. In a delinquency proceeding in juvenile court where a child has committed a

delinquent act, the list of evidence that the court hears is expanded to include whether that child's continuation in his/her home is contrary to the welfare of that child, and whether reasonable efforts have been made to prevent the need to remove such child from that home. After hearing that evidence, the court must make findings based upon that evidentiary hearing. When a child is alleged to have committed a delinquent act, the bill amends the timeframe of dates where such child is considered to have entered foster care to parallel federal regulations for the purpose of federal funding. When a child has been committed to Department of Juvenile Justice in a non-secure residential facility, that child will receive administrative review within six months of entering the facility and then again every six months thereafter. That report must be transmitted to the court within five days of conducting the review. The bill also amends the Code with respect to permanency plans by requiring periodic review of the permanency plan within 12 months of entering foster care, and every 12 months thereafter. That child's guardian and other interested parties must be given written notice at least five days prior to such hearing.

With respect to suspended driver's licenses, the court has the authority to restore driving privileges and set the appropriate fees to restore those privileges so long as the operation of a motor vehicle did not directly relate to the conviction. The Board of Corrections is tasked with developing and implementing programs to assist adult offenders with reentry into society upon release from prison. Moreover, the board shall create a Program and Treatment Completion Certificate, with specific eligibility considerations and requirements for completion of such certificate; however an offender who was convicted of a serious violent felony is not eligible for the certificate. The Program and Treatment Completion Certificate will create a presumption of due care when hiring a certificate holder that may be rebutted by evidence that extends beyond the scope of that certificate or which was known or should have been known by the person whom negligence is asserted.

Each county is tasked with establishing a protocol committee for the investigation and prosecution of alleged cases of child abuse and that committee is charged with developing local protocols to aid in that effort. If a child's death occurs outside the child's county of residence, a duty is placed on the medical examiner of the county where the death occurred to submit information to the protocol committee regarding the cause and manner of death of the child. Such disclosure of protected health information is for law enforcement purposes pursuant to federal guidelines and does not abridge the privileged nature of such information.

The director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation is tasked with coordinating and supervising the work of the Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel and to provide administrative support and staffing as necessary to enable the panel to carry out its duties. Moreover, the director must report the death of any child to the chairperson of that county's review committee and provide that committee access to any records of the bureau relating to said child. When any entity requests information regarding findings or information regarding a case of child abuse or neglect involving a fatality or near fatality, those records may be redacted by removing references to: ongoing criminal investigations; medical and mental health records made confidential by other provisions of law; privileged communications of an attorney, identifying information of a person who reported the abuse; information that may cause mental or physical harm to other children within the household of the child being investigated; the name of the child who is the subject of reported abuse; and the name of any person within the household of the child who is not under investigation for the reported child abuse.

SB 366

"Macon-Bibb County Water and Sewerage Authority Act"; provide for the filling of vacancies in the membership

Sen. David Lucas of the 26th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act known as the 'Macon-Bibb County Water and Sewerage Authority Act,' so as to provide for the filling of vacancies in the membership of such authority.

SB 367

Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Commissions; change the eligibility to be a member of a commission

Sen. Hunter Hill of the 6th

House Committee on State Planning & Community Affairs

Final Bill Summary:

SB 367 requires a majority vote by the governing authority for the temporary replacement of a suspended public official. This temporary replacement must be qualified by law to fill a member's seat and will fill that seat until the suspension of the public official is terminated or the term of the public official has ended, whichever is earlier.

SB 367 adds the provision that the president or presiding officer of the legislative body of the most populous municipality will be a member of the metropolitan area planning and development commission.

SB 376

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority; allowable expenditures; repeal provisions

Sen. Tyler Harper of the 7th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority.

SB 381

"Georgia First Informer Broadcasters Act"; provide planning for first informer broadcasters; definitions

Sen. Brandon Beach of the 21st

House Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 381, the 'Georgia First Informer Broadcasters Act,' defines "broadcaster" as any corporation or entity that is in the business of broadcasting video or audio by public airwaves, cable, direct or indirect satellite transmission, or any other means of communication. It defines an "emergency" as a declaration of a state of emergency or disaster by Georgia's governor or as presidentially declared. It goes on to define a "first informer broadcaster" as a broadcaster who makes application to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and follows the rules and regulations of the director of emergency management. By July 1, 2016, the unified incident command system, as well as the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan, shall establish planning for first informer broadcasters to have access to areas affected by an emergency for the purpose of restoring or resupplying equipment critical to the broadcasting of emergency related programming. It also will give them access to the distribution of fuel, food, water, supplies, equipment, and any other materials needed for broadcasting, and it protects broadcasters from having vehicles or other essential materials seized. This bill allows the GEMA to develop or adopt instruction courses on personal safety and navigation in an area affected by emergency.

SB 382

Theft; provide for the crime of retail theft; penalties

Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd

House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 382 creates the offense of refund fraud. It is unlawful for a person to give a false or fictitious name for the purpose of obtaining a refund from a store or retail establishment. Moreover, it also criminalizes the conduct of obtaining a refund from a store or retail establishment using false identification. The punishments along with the felony levels mirror those of the shoplifting statutes.

SB 383

Coroners; items of value of the deceased shall not be converted to the coroner/medical examiner's personal use

Sen. Hardie Davis of the 22nd

House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 383 restricts a coroner or county medical examiner from converting any property of value, belonging to the deceased, for the personal use of that coroner or county medical examiner. Moreover, when any property of value is no longer needed for investigative or evidence purposes, that property shall be returned to the next of kin of the deceased. The crime is punished as a breach of fiduciary duty and is tied to the value of the property converted.

SB 386

Civil Practice; prohibit public disclosure; social security numbers, taxpayers identification numbers; court documents

**Sen. John Albers of the 56th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 386 changes the terms of court in Bartow County to the first Monday in February, May, August, and November, effective January 1, 2015.

The bill also requires all court filings and summons of garnishment to include only the last four digits of social security numbers, taxpayer identification numbers, and financial account numbers, and only the year of birth for birth dates; however, a plaintiff serving a summons of garnishment must provide the defendant's full social security number, taxpayer identification number, or financial account number, if reasonably available to the plaintiff, on the copies of the summons served on the garnishee and the defendant. If such garnishment summons is filed with the court, the filing must be redacted as outlined above.

The bill creates exceptions to the redaction requirement for financial account numbers related to: property allegedly subject to forfeiture in a civil forfeiture proceeding; the official record of an administrative or agency proceeding; the official record of a court or tribunal in another case or proceeding; a filing made in probate court; and a filing made under seal by court order. The court may later unseal a filing or order the filer to file a redacted version for the public record, and a filer may petition the court to file an unredacted filing under seal. A court must retain all filings made under seal as part of the record. A filer waives the protections described above if he or she makes the filing without redaction and not under seal. An inadvertent failure to make required redactions is a curable defect and does not prevent a document from being filed with the court.

For good cause, the court may order a filing which contains additional personal or confidential information to be sealed and may also require that a redacted version of that filing be filed for the public record. The court may, for good cause, also limit or prohibit a nonparty's remote electronic access to a document filed with the court.

The bill requires that the general civil case and the domestic relations case filing information forms contain an acknowledgement by the filer that the filing satisfies the above redaction requirements.

The bill updates forms relating to summons of postjudgment garnishment and summons of continuing garnishment.

The bill becomes effective on July 1, 2014 and applies to any filings made on or after that date.

SB 391

Health; provide that each medical facility make a good faith application; TRICARE network

**Sen. Don Balfour of the 9th
House Committee on Health & Human Services**

Final Bill Summary:

SB 391 amends the official Code as it relates to the 'Georgia Child Advocate for the Protection of Children Act,' child abuse, and general provisions for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The bill further amends Code Section 49-5-41, which relates to persons and agencies permitted access to child abuse and dependency records, and clarifies defined terms and changes provisions relating to disclosure.

SB 391 also stipulates that each medical facility in Georgia must make good faith applications to the TRICARE program no later than July 1, 2015. If the facility fails to qualify for the TRICARE program, the facility must implement a plan to upgrade the facility. The facility is responsible for submitting reports to the Commissioner of Public Health detailing their efforts to join the program. The commissioner must maintain files on each medical facility and monitor their effort. Medical facilities are not required to participate in the TRICARE programs.

SB 392

Motor Vehicles; provide additional definition; acceptance of applications for registration; not in compliance with federal emission standards

**Sen. Steve Gooch of the 51st
House Committee on Motor Vehicles**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 392 provides that military surplus vehicles sold in Georgia shall not be subject to federal emission standards. It also provides that vehicles older than 25 years are not required to meet the federal emission standards.

SB 393

Lumpkin County Water and Sewerage Authority; chairperson of board of commissioners; maintain position on the authority

**Sen. Steve Gooch of the 51st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend the Act creating the Lumpkin County Water and Sewerage Authority, so as to provide that the chairperson of the Board of Commissioners maintains a position on the authority.

SB 416

City of Cleveland; provide for annexation of property into the city boundaries

**Sen. Steve Gooch of the 51st
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Cleveland, so as to provide for the annexation of property into the city boundaries.

SB 418

City of Chickamauga, Walker County; provide new charter

**Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Chickamauga.

SB 420

Board of Commissioners of McIntosh County; change the description of the commissioner districts

**Sen. William Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to reapportion the McIntosh County Board of Commissioners.

SB 421

Board of Education of McIntosh County; change description of the education districts

**Sen. William Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd
House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to reapportion the McIntosh County Board of Education.

SB 423

City of Berkeley Lake; change number of councilmembers required for a quorum with the mayor

Sen. David Shafer of the 48th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Berkeley Lake.

SB 424

State Court of Cobb County; change the compensations of the clerk and chief deputy clerk

Sen. Lindsey Tippins of the 37th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of Cobb County, so as to change the compensations of the clerk and the chief deputy clerk.

SB 425

Probate Court of Cobb County; change the compensation of the chief and deputy, chief investigator, executive assistant to the sheriff

Sen. Lindsey Tippins of the 37th

House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

Final Bill Summary:

A Bill to change compensation for the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Sheriff, and the Judge of the Probate Court of Cobb County from the fee system to the salary system.

SR 371

U.S. Congress; making renewed application to call for a convention for purpose of proposing an amendment to U.S. Constitution

Sen. Bill Cowsert of the 46th

House Committee on Judiciary

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Resolution 371 calls for a constitutional convention as provided by Article V of the U.S. Constitution for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and recommends that the convention be limited to consideration and proposal of an amendment requiring that in the absence of a national emergency, the total of all federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year.

The application to Congress is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently outstanding balanced budget applications from other states, and should be aggregated with those applications for the purpose of reaching the two-thirds of states necessary to call a convention, but should not be aggregated with applications on any other subject. The application continues until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of states have made applications on the same subject and Congress calls for a convention to propose a constitutional amendment, until Congress has proposed an amendment of its own accord which is consistent with the balanced budget amendment referenced above, or until January 1, 2020, whichever occurs first.

Accompanying legislation defining how Georgia will appoint its delegates may be found in Senate Bill 206.

SR 415

Taxes; increase in state income tax rate prohibited -CA

**Sen. David Shafer of the 48th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to cap the maximum rate for income tax that can be imposed by the State of Georgia at six percent.

SR 736

United States Constitution Article V; apply for a convention of the states

**Sen. Cecil Staton of the 18th
House Committee on Judiciary**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Resolution 736 applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the U.S. Constitution, for the calling of a convention of states limited to proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

The application is to be aggregated with any applications of any other state legislatures for the purposes of determining whether two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention addressing balancing the federal budget, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, or limiting the terms of federal officials. The application continues in accordance with Article V until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the states have made applications on the same subject.

SR 746

State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias; express support

**Sen. Renee Unterman of the 45th
House Committee on Human Relations & Aging**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Resolution 746 expresses support for the State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias developed by the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan Task Force. Additionally, this resolution recognizes the increasing and devastating impact of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and thus encourages all Georgia communities, the private sector, and state and local governments to implement the State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

SR 788

Property Conveyance; authorizing 13 counties

**Sen. John Albers of the 56th
House Committee on State Properties**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Resolution 788 is a conveyance resolution for property located in eighteen counties, conveying property owned by the State of Georgia or amending those conveyances, as follows:

Article I conveys property in Appling County, the former site of the Baxley Armory tract of Altamaha Technical College and currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to the Development Authority of Appling County to be used for public purpose for \$10.

Article II conveys property in Baldwin County, the site of three facilities previously known as Rivers State Prison, Scott State Prison, and Mens State Prison and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, to the State Properties Commission to offer for competitive bid or to a local government or state entity to be used for public purpose for \$10.

Article III conveys property in Baldwin and Wilkinson Counties, a portion of Bartram Forest and currently under the custody of the Georgia Forestry Commission, to the Fall Line Regional Development Authority for construction of an industrial park for fair market value.

Article IV leases property in Chatham County, currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, to Coastal Center for Developmental Services, Inc. for \$1,000 per year.

Article V conveys property in Chatham County, a portion of the Coastal State Prison and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections, to the Georgia Department of Transportation to be used for a widening and reconstruction project for \$1,850 and \$10,650 for reimbursement of damages.

Article VI leases property in Cobb County, a portion of the Western and Atlantic Railroad property and currently under the custody of the State Properties Commission, to the City of Marietta for use of a visitor center and parking lot for \$650 per year.

Article VII leases 350 square feet in Columbia County, a part of the Augusta State Medical Prison and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections, to MCG Health, Inc. to be used for the purpose of operating a 340B Clinic and Oncology Clinic for \$3,500 per year.

Article VIII conveys property in Dade County, the former Dade County Unit of the Georgia Forestry Commission, to Dade County in exchange for a three acre property currently being leased to the State.

Article IX conveys property in DeKalb County, currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Public Health and located at 2600 Skyland Drive, to the State Properties Commission to offer for competitive bid or to a local government or state entity to be used for public purpose for \$10.

Article X conveys property in Fulton County, a portion of the planned Gwinnett Technical College campus and currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to the City of Alpharetta to be used for the extension of Northwinds Parkway for fair market value.

Article XI leases property in Fulton County, a portion of the Georgia World Congress Center campus and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, to the World Congress Center Authority for \$10. Article IX also authorizes nonexclusive permanent utility easements and appurtenant easements for the term of the lease.

Article XII conveys property in Liberty County, a portion of the Liberty campus of Savannah Technical College and currently under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia, to the Georgia Department of Transportation to be used for the road widening project of State Route 119 for \$10.

Article XIII conveys property in Meriwether County, a portion of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation campus and currently under the custody of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Regents University to be used for operation of a long-term care hospital and an inpatient rehabilitation facility for \$10.

Article XIV leases property in Meriwether County, a portion of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation campus currently under the custody of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, to The Warrior Alliance to be used as a vocational rehabilitation training program for \$10.00 per year.

Article XV leases property in Monroe County, 497 square feet of improved property located at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, to the Justice Federal Credit Union to be used as a financial office and ATM location for \$10.00 and an annual rental amount of \$5,000.

Article XVI leases property in Monroe County, 25 square feet of improved floor space located at the State Offices South at Tift College and currently in the custody of Georgia Department of Corrections, to the Justice Federal Credit Union to be used as an ATM location for an annual rental amount of \$600.

Article XVII conveys property in Muscogee County, the former horticulture program site of the Technical College System of Georgia, to the consolidated government of Columbus and Muscogee County to be used for perpetual public use for \$10.

Article XVIII conveys property in Rabun County, the former site of the Dillard Farmers Market and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, to the State Properties Commission to offer for competitive bid or to a local government or state entity to be used for public purpose for \$10.

Article XIX conveys property in Spalding County, currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Labor, to the Georgia Department of Transportation for interchange improvements at State Route 3/US 19 at State Route 16 for \$7,150 plus \$3,250 for cost of damages.

Article XX conveys property in Tattnall County, the former site of the Glennville Farmers Market and Poultry Lab and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, to the State Properties Commission to offer for competitive bid or to a local government or state entity to be used for public purpose for \$10.

Article XXI conveys property in Toombs County, a portion of the Joe Kennedy Farm Property and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections, to Toombs County to be used for public purpose for \$10.

Article XXII conveys property in Troup County, the former site of State Patrol Post 2 and currently under the custody of the Georgia Department of Public Safety, to Troup County to be used for public purpose for \$10.

SR 828

Joint Study Committee on Emergency Relocation of Abused Adults; create

**Sen. Renee Unterman of the 45th
House Committee on Human Relations & Aging**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Resolution 828 creates the Joint Study Committee on Emergency Relocation of Abused Adults. This committee will study the current laws for relocating adult residents to safe and secure environments from personal care homes when such homes are closed due to abusive situations. Additionally, the committee will focus on designating a lead agency, coordinator, and incident commander for overseeing relocations. Finally, the committee will study the need for legislation that establishes a protocol during these emergency relocation situations.

SR 847

Heritage Preserve; dedicated real property located in Rockdale and Henry Counties; authorize the change of use

**Sen. Rick Jeffares of the 17th
House Committee on State Properties**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Resolution 847 approves a 'change of use' for a portion of the Heritage Preserve located at Panola State Park in Rockdale and Henry counties. This 'change of use' will allow the Department of Natural Resources to expand their office space to provide for additional staff and a historical and cultural preservation laboratory.

SR 868

Public Property; granting of restrictive and nonexclusive easements for operation/maintenance of facilities, utilities 12 counties

**Sen. John Albers of the 56th
House Committee on State Properties**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Resolution 868 is a resolution granting nonexclusive easements for operation and maintenance of facilities, utilities, and ingress and egress in, on, over, under, upon, across, or through state-owned property in Appling, Barrow, Bibb, Bryan, Fulton, Gordon, Jasper, Laurens, McIntosh, Monroe, Toombs, and Troup counties.

Article I grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.157 of an acre in Appling County to the Georgia Department of Transportation, for the purpose of a bridge replacement and realignment on SR4/US1 at the Altamaha River, Overflow, and Williams Creek. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article II grants a nonexclusive easement on 1.2 acres in Barrow County to Walton EMC, for the purpose of installing, maintaining, and operating underground electrical distribution lines. The property is currently in the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia and is located at the Lanier Technical College. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article III grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.12 of an acre in Bibb County to Georgia Power Company, for the purpose of installation, operation, and maintenance of an underground electrical power line. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense and is located at the Macon Readiness Center. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article IV grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.0085 of an acre in Bryan County to Comcast, for installing, maintaining, and operating an underground fiber optic cable. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and is located at the Richmond Hill Wildlife Management Area. The consideration for this easement is fair market value.

Article V grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.19 of an acre in Fulton County to Georgia Power Company, for installing, maintaining, and operating an underground electrical power line. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense and is located at the Atlanta Readiness Center. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article VI grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.0119 of an acre in Fulton County to the City of Atlanta, for installing, maintaining, and operating a water meter. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense and is located at the Atlanta Readiness Center. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article VII grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.043 of an acre in Fulton County to TOJV, LLC, for constructing, installing, operating, and maintaining the new Omni Hotel Connector. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Economic Development and is located in the Georgia World Congress Center Plaza. The consideration for this easement is fair market value not to be less than \$36,350.

Article VIII grants a nonexclusive easements on 0.33 of an acre in Fulton County to the Georgia Department of Transportation, for the purpose of constructing, installing, operating, and maintaining the Spring Street bridge replacement. The property is currently in the custody of the State Properties Commission and is located on the Western and Atlantic Railroad property. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article IX grants a nonexclusive easement on 7.92 acres in Gordon County to the Georgia Department of Transportation, for the road widening project and bridge replacement of State Route 225. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and is located at the New Town Creek bridge over the Coosawattee River. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article X grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.399 of an acre in Jasper County to Central Georgia EMC, for the purpose of installation, operation, and maintenance of an underground electrical power line and necessary equipment. The property is currently in the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia and is located at the Southern Crescent Technical College. The consideration for this easement is \$650.

Article XI grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.01 of an acre in Laurens County to the City of Dublin, Georgia, for the relocation and installation of a natural gas regulator station. The property is currently in the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia and is located at the Oconee Fall Line Technical College. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article XII grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.72 of an acre in McIntosh County to Georgia Power Company, for the purpose of installing, maintaining, and operating an underground electrical power line. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and is located at Sapelo Island WMA. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article XIII grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.18 of an acre in Monroe County to the City of Forsyth, for the purpose of installing, operating, and maintaining an electrical service conduit. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense and is located at the Forsyth Readiness Center. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article XIV grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.06 of an acre in Monroe County to the City of Forsyth, for the purpose enhancing and improving Railroad Avenue. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections and is located at the State Offices South at Tift College. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article XV grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.19 of an acre in Toombs County to the Georgia Department of Transportation, for the bridge replacement and realignment on SR4/US1 at the Altamaha River, Overflow, and Williams Creek. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

Article XVI grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.238 of an acre in Troup County to Georgia Power Company, for the purpose of installing, maintaining, and operating an underground electrical power line. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Economic Development and is located at Hyundai Dymos plant. The consideration for this easement is \$650.

Article XVII grants a nonexclusive easement on 0.238 of an acre in Troup County to Wide Open West, LLC, for the purpose of installing, maintaining, and operating a telecommunication line. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Economic Development and is located at Hyundai Dymos plant. The consideration for this easement is \$650.

Article XVIII grants a nonexclusive easement on 3.472 acres in Troup County to the City of West Point, for the purpose of installing, maintaining, and operating an overhead electrical power line. The property is currently in the custody of the Georgia Department of Economic Development and is located at Hyundai Dymos plant. The consideration for this easement is \$10.

SR 875

Property Tax Digest Impact on Education Funding; create Joint Study Committee

**Sen. Jack Hill of the 4th
House Committee on Ways & Means**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution creates the Joint Study Committee on the Property Tax Digest Impact on Education Funding to be comprised of five members from both the House and the Senate and to meet during the interim of 2014. The committee will report back to the General Assembly its findings on issues related to tax digest reporting, revenues paid "in lieu" of taxes, and other issues impacting a local tax digest.

SR 896

Georgia Legacy Program; create Joint Study Committee

**Sen. Ross Tolleson of the 20th
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution creates an 11-member Joint Study Committee on the Georgia Legacy Program. The committee is charged with determining the need for state funding options to acquire critical natural resources areas for conservation, preservation and outdoor recreation.

SR 941

Congress; urge to grow United States economy; increase the number of visas; permit Korean citizens possessing skills in a specialty occupation

**Sen. David Shafer of the 48th
House Committee on Economic Development & Tourism**

Final Bill Summary:

This resolution urges Congress to grow the United States economy by increasing the number of visas designed to permit Korean citizens possessing skills in a specialty occupation to work in the United States.

SR 981

Violence Against Health Care Workers; create joint study committee

**Sen. Renee Unterman of the 45th
House Committee on Health & Human Services**

Final Bill Summary:

Senate Resolution 981 creates the Joint Study Committee on Violence Against Health Care Workers. Over 80 percent of all hospital staff has been assaulted at least once in their career, and this workplace violence results in increased costs and diversion of resources for increased hospital security. This study committee of eleven members will review the causes of workplace violence and develop solutions to prevent it.

SR 981 also creates the Joint Study Committee on the Prescription of Medical Cannabis for Serious Medical Conditions. The committee will study the effects of the extracts and compounds of cannabis as a medical treatment to determine if it is appropriate to enact legislation that will allow for the prescription of medical cannabis. The committee is composed of ten members.